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ASF to push Nally for \$240,000

The ASF and the NSL buried the hatchet at the weekend.

In an atmosphere described by all sides as "very amicable", the ASF Executive decided to support the NSL in its claim for \$240,000 in sponsorship money alleged to be owed by ASF Marketing Ltd. to the League.

A dispute had arisen out of the arrangements negotiated by the League before and at the beginning of the current season.

ASF Chairman Sir Arthur George who told the meeting he had resigned as a director of ASF Marketing was authorised to negotiate resolution of the conflict with ASF Marketing supreme Patrick Nally of West Nally Ltd. in San Francisco at the time of the Olympic Games.

In turn, the National League has agreed to take no unilateral action pending Sir Arthur George making his report on the outcome of the talks with Nally.

Additionally, the NSL has guaranteed full support for National Team commitments, provided that it is properly consulted where ASF Marketing is involved in future tour arrangements.

"We feel that the recent World Soccer Series was a total disaster," said NSL Chairman Sam Pappasavas.

"We said beforehand that the tournament was too long, too many teams were involved and 21 games was too many."

"That is the way it turned out. Our competition was suspended for an excessive period and the players were left flat after it ended."

"In addition, we will make nothing from this year's NSL Cup, whereas last year there was a net profit to the League of in excess of \$100,000."

The League will receive a subsidy of \$30,000 towards Cup costs, which the ASF is later to recoup from West Nally.

Pappasavas added that the ASF had no contract with ASF Marketing Ltd. for 1985.

"As a result of today's meeting the relationship between the ASF and the NSL is as good as it could be," said ASF vice-president Peter McCann.

NOW IT'S NSL No. 7

By LAURIE SCHWAB

Stand by for the seventh version of the National Soccer League.

It appears that the challenge rounds will be scrapped, and that the two Brisbane teams will be relocated from the National Conference to the Australian Conference.

This would give the National Conference 14 clubs, and the National Conference only 10.

By playing home and away, the National Conference clubs would have 28 games each.

The National Conference clubs would have to play each other three times, for a total of 27 games each.

None of this is certain yet, however. The decision rests with the NSL's Council of Clubs which will consider a number of alternative formats put forward by the management committee.

It is felt by most clubs, though, that the cost of organising the challenge rounds is out of proportion with income.

Any change to the NSL would result in the seventh format since the league started in 1977, and NSL leaders are adamant that this will be the last!

The league started as a straightforward, 14-club home-and-away championship.

In 1979 a bonus point was awarded for a three-goal winning margin.

In 1980 the bonus point system was scrapped.

In 1981 the league was increased from 14 to 16 clubs.

In 1983 three points instead of two were awarded for a victory.

This year, we have two regions of 12 clubs each, with a number of sub-regions, plus inter and intra-conference challenge rounds, and we're back to two points for a win.

Apart from deciding on the league format, the NSL also has to work out a way to end the 1985 competition by late September, as Australia's World Cup qualifying matches start in early October.

This year's home and away series ends on October 6 - 7 and is followed by a final five series. The regional grand finals are scheduled for October 28 and the home-and-away national final on November 1 and 4.

The Socceroos are due to start their world tour in late October, meaning the national final will be played without the best 22 or 23 players in the country.

Sydney City Hakosh, the likely champion of the Australian Conference, would have to make do without John Kosmina, Steve O'Connor, Jim Cant, Joe Watson and Tony Pezzano at least.

South Melbourne Hellas would play the final without Alan Davidson, Ken Murphy, Charlie Egan and perhaps Steve Blair and Oscar Grino.

Slovan may tour, Hertha rejected

Australia could be represented at the Merlion Cup in Singapore from October 14-28 by a youth selection.

The senior Socceroos have won the cup twice since its inception in 1982 against some of the best opposition from Asia. The full Australian team will not be available as it will be on tour.

"National youth coach Jim Shoulders wants to select a combination of Australian 1983 and 1985 Youth Internationals for the Merlion Cup," Emery said.

"Involved would be outstanding 1983 players such as David Lowe, Rod Brown, Ralph Maier and Tom McCulloch, and 11 of the 1985 players destined to represent Australia in the next World Youth Cup."

The Youth Team players will have build-up games in either one or two further International Tournaments in six months' time - the Joao Havelange Tournament in Mexico, scheduled for next January, and the Israel Winter Tournament, held over the Christmas-New Year period.

Meanwhile, the ASF Executive rejected a proposed early January tour by West German Club Hertha Berlin. It was however, decided to investigate a possible visit to Australia by Czechoslovakian Club Slovan Bratislava, in January-February.

Emery left Sydney for Beijing (Peking) on Sunday to finalise arrangements for Australia's three games against China in November.

Also to be discussed is the Australian National Women's team matches at the Xian Tournament in October.

He will also check arrangements for Australia's participation in the first World under 16 Soccer Cup to be held in China in mid 1985.

Challenge matches

Pairings for the NSL inter-conference challenge matches on Sunday week (venues were to be decided as we went to Press):

SM Hellas v. Sydney C. Hakosh, Heidelberg-Alexander v. APIA, Sydney Olympic v. Melbourne Croatia, Marconi v. B.U. Juventus, Melita Eagles v. Brisbane City, Makodonia v. Penrith, Brisbane Lions v. Blacktown, Canberra v. Footscray J.U.S.T., West Adelaide Hellas v. St. George Budapest, Sydney Croatia v. Adelaide City Juventus, Newcastle-Rosebud v. Green Gully, Sunshine-George Cross v. Wollongong.



With Peter Scott

IN FOCUS

Enlarging NSL was disastrous

Without any doubt, the most vexed question facing our sport at the moment is the future, or lack thereof, of the NSL. Blame is being apportioned in generous shares between the clubs, their management committee, the ASF and its marketing arm and I have the notion that they are all to blame for the present tragic impasse.

The clubs for their almost total lack of professionalism in the promotion of the sport; the management for its naivete in commercial negotiations and the administration of the NSL, the ASF for its tendency to be wide-eyed and open-mouthed whenever faced with proposed instant solutions by "Experts" and the marketing company for misleading soccer administrators - who do not seem to be able to differentiate - into believing they were receiving a sponsorship handout, instead of signing a commercial agreement.

So, what to do, what to do? Well, I have a few ideas for consideration. Whether the regionalised NSL continues, or reverts to de facto State Leagues in Victoria and NSW, get rid of the padding.

To have increased the number of teams at a time of financial and moral crisis, as was done this year, rather than reduce them and keep only the very best in the top league, was nothing short of disastrous.

It reduced standards and produced even more games almost completely devoid of spectator interest, a situation which, like a cancer, has a tendency to spread far and wide.

Get the ASF to butt out of club affairs and let's have clubs openly identifying with what they see as their best markets, current or targeted, and who cares what they call themselves?

And, just as a thought, about blowing the whistle on the plush cronyism which appears to permeate the game?

If you are wondering what I am talking about, when was the last time a professional appointment in soccer was advertised, with the aim of possibly attracting the attentions of capable candidates from other fields of endeavour?

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Let's have top stars

By LAURIE SCHWAB

There was a time when the National League was graced by Bobby Charlton, Ray Clemence, Charlie George, Malcolm Macdonald, Mick Channon, Ralph Coates, Graeme Souness, and Roberto Vieri, who stayed on to become the darling of Marconi fans.

The idea at the time was to boost attendances and to cultivate the image of soccer through big-name guest stars.

It was an admirable idea, for stars are what professional sport is all about - perhaps too much so, as stars cost money which most clubs don't have.

Johnny Warren is one of those who sees a solution to the money problem. He has advocated for some time that guest stars be financed by companies which in return, would be able to use them for promotional purposes - endorsements, advertising, TV appearances.

Alternatively, consortiums of smaller firms could pool their smaller money to finance the visit of a guest star. The club in the end, would get its cash benefit at the turnstiles.

I'm talking about top-name guest players, not second or third-division players. Ideally, they should be from Greece, Italy and Yugoslavia - and those from the U.K. should be players with glamor appeal, the sort of player who would inspire the indifferent to feel enthusiastic. Let's have a few well-known South Americans as well, if that's possible. The South American market hasn't been tapped here.

I know the problems, of course: the main one being reluctance by the overseas clubs to release the

players. But then, I'm not talking about Maradona, Rossi, Rush or Rummenigge. Let's look at others, who were up there in their prime but who now are outshone by the new breed: Petrovic, Sestac, Mavros, Galakos for example.

The National League has been preoccupied by other things, though. It has been fighting for sponsorship money, and warding off threats to its very existence. On a broader plane, soccer itself is fighting for survival as a meaningful sport at club level. The players are there - but where are the spectators?

Give 'em skill, thrills!

Everyone, but everyone connected with Aussie soccer is worried about poor attendances.

Semi-professional clubs can't survive with just 500 or 600 paying customers. And the bigger clubs need more than 2,000 to 3,000 paying customers just to keep their heads above water.

Clubs are getting squeezed slowly out of existence. As a result, players' earning ability is being dramatically lowered and there no longer is the same incentive to play well. In the past, if you turned in a great season, you had improved your bargaining position when it was time to talk turkey for next season.

That certainly isn't the case nowadays. So how can we overcome the problem of poor crowds?

Here's one suggestion: Most of our fans are Europeans. They like watching European soccer - a skillful, creative game in which players take



England international Malcolm Macdonald (left) has a shot stopped on the line by Col Bennett of Brisbane Lions in a guest game for SM-Hellas.

KAT'S CORNER with PETER KATHOLOS



chances, but still maintain possession in an efficient and effective fashion, just like Iraklis and Juventus did last month.

Coaches here should encourage their players to try things instead of always playing the easy ball. And we've got to cut out the kick and rush style. That type of game makes most fans sick.

Maybe we all should get together - media, coaches, players, referees, spectators and administrators - to talk this thing out. We've got to try to bring back the fans.

We've got to improve the product to start selling it on a much broader scale. We've got to promote players through the media, to build stars for kids to look up to but let's make damn sure that these stars can play. Don't build up dummies, like we've sometimes done in the past.

And let's bring quality guest players out here again. Not English players, because they've done little to improve attendances before, but top European players, bell players, players with skill and flair. That's what people want to see next 750cc Hondas charging up and down the field.

We've got to lift our playing standard. That's going to improve the spectacle, create new interest, attract sponsors, and bring back the fans.

Fine the mugs!

I tuned into 0/28's 'On The Ball' show the other week just in time to watch a top NSL player making a disgusting gesture toward a group of opposition fans after scoring a goal.

You'd never get away with that overseas, but in Australia we don't give a damn. That's a disgrace!

We've got to improve soccer's image and that's where the administrators and media people come in. If you make obscene gestures to the crowd in Europe the media crucifies you, and your club and federation both fine you.

That's how such acts have been stamped out. And that's what we've got to do in Australia. Just remember, that adult males aren't the only people that go to soccer matches. Women and children go too. They don't deserve to be offended by certain players who should have a lot more respect for fans.



Attile Abonyi in action for Sydney Croatia.

"In the past year I've been in charge of two NSL clubs, worked with the national team under the most qualified coach in the country, spoken to an array of world-renowned soccer personalities and been sacked."

It's Atti Abonyi speaking — assistant national coach, former coach of Canberra Arrows, Sydney Croatia and Riverwood, and one of the most gifted strikers to have worn the green and gold of Australia.

Abonyi said he had not even had time to think about future national team commitments, as he was at present trying to settle into a new full-time job with AMP Insurance.

Former national team coach Rale Rasic has quit

Abonyi follows Rasic into the world of insurance

By PAUL JAMES

coaching and works for an insurance company.

"My number one priority is trying to get into this job," said Abonyi.

"I think it has great potential."

But he said he had not discounted further national team, or club involvement.

He said as far as the national team went, he was one of three who would be considered for future use by Arok and the ASF.

"Both Eddie (Thomson) and John (Margaritis) did

fine jobs with the 'B' squad and they both have as much claim for a place on the Socceroo world tour as I do," he said.

"It's up to Frank and the ASF to decide who goes and I'm not going to make any statements that 'I should go', or anything like that."

He said he'd love to get back into club soccer on a part-time basis, but said he was not rushing about offering himself to clubs just yet.

"To be honest, I'm not overly keen on the idea of getting involved with a club midway through the season," he said.

"I did that with Canberra and it just doesn't work out."

"I'd rather start from scratch and do all the pre-season work myself, so that I know what I can build on," he said.

"Maybe if somebody got in touch next week and it was a great offer I'd consider it, but at present I'm not distraught because I'm not coaching."

As a player, Abonyi had few peers on the Australian scene, playing in 58 full internationals, while winning many honors with his club, St George Budapest.

When his playing career with Saints ended, he moved to Sydney Croatia where he again showed that his skill was more than a match for younger legs by being part of Croatia's 1977 NSW State League-winning side.

Abonyi then turned to coaching and had remarkable success with where he and Melita before raising more than a few eyebrows when he went to unfashionable Riverwood and lifted it to a remarkable second place in the NSW State League.

After a record such as his, it seems almost ludicrous that Abonyi is now on the outer as far as the Australian club scene is concerned.

Last year he took over the reins of Canberra mid-season, something he says he'd think twice about doing again.

After half a year with the Arrows he was lured back to Sydney by his 'second love', Croatia, to lead it in its inaugural year in the NSL.

But after eight rounds, and with Croatia languishing in the bottom region of the table, Abonyi was dismissed.

Far from being bitter about the sacking, Abonyi treats it as part of his 'soccer education'.

"Since I stopped playing and started coaching, I've been learning all the time," Abonyi said.

"I suppose you could say that the State League was my high school education and now I'm at university," he said.

Abonyi said the experiences of the past year taught him what could be achieved and what had to be done to survive.

"I don't bear any grudges or bitterness against Croatia," he said.

"I now know what it's like to work under such pressures."

"I'm not saying they were right to sack me, because I still think it was crazy to make a judgement after only eight weeks."

"But I've just chalked it up to experience," he said.

Abonyi said he was still coming down off a high after the international series and the involvement with the Socceroo side.

"Working with Frank (Arok) was an experience in itself, let alone working with the national side."

"He is the complete coach," he said.

Abonyi said it was fascinating for him, after playing so many times for the Socceroos, to see things from the other side, the coaching side.

"It was quite odd, and yet exhilarating," he said.



Attile Abonyi

He said the thing he noticed even more than when he was playing was how the whole squad developed a spirit that permeated everything that was done.

"It was more than the 11 players on the field. It was the substitutes, the coaches, manager, trainer, gear steward, everyone..."

"There seems to be this tremendous bond that develops whenever a Socceroo team comes together."

He discounted reports that jealousy had sprung up between the 'A' and 'B' teams as "journalistic licence."

He said the 'B' squad obviously had reaped benefits, but he felt the concept needed development and refinement.

"I think there would be much more use in fielding an under 21 side instead of a 'B' team," he said.

"Let's be honest. There were some players in the 'B' squad who did a fine job but who were unlikely to force their way into the 'A' squad."

"I think we would get more value by selecting an under 21 team — and calling it just that — and using it both as a back-up squad and as something for the future."

World Series spectacular on 0/28

It was described as the ultimate sporting event... 28 days in which five major international soccer teams would take on Australia's Socceroos in a glamorous match tournament in preparation for the 1986 Mexico World Cup.

Amid huge publicity, painstaking organisation and headlining controversy, Australian soccer fans — and sport lovers in general — seemed set to expect a bonanza of goals from names like Manchester United, Nottingham Forest, Glasgow Rangers, Iraklis, and the mighty Juventus of Italy.

For Network 0-28, the tournament meant no fewer than 11 live telecasts with highlights from numerous other fixtures. Now, in a memorable and absorbing recap of the series, 0-28 presents "World Soccer Series — The Event", a 90-minute sports special premiering tomorrow (Thursday) at 10.10 pm.

Les Murray presents a mixture of news, interviews and highlights from the glamour series, a soccer event which produced its share of controversy, elation and bitter disappointment. The Socceroos, under the guidance of the wily, pragmatic Frank Arok, gained vital experience in their build-up to the 1986 World Cup Finals in Mexico.

Their opponents, some of the world's top footballers, may not have provided the goal feast so many expected but still managed some vibrant displays of skill and attacking football which should have attracted and satisfied more spectators than became apparent.

In "World Soccer Series — The Event", Network 0-28 recaptures the excitement before, during and after the tournament. Among the games viewers will see are the electric clashes between Australia and Glasgow Rangers in Sydney, and Juventus V Australia at the MCG; the disappointment of Manchester United in the opening game of the series; and Australia's spirited, but tired, final performance against Greece's Iraklis in Adelaide.

Hands off our kids, says Adrian Alston

Wollongong coach Adrian Alston has knocked back approaches for his star players.

"Wollongong is a young side and most of the team are still learning. But I hope to re-sign all of the youngsters for next season because they are the nucleus of a good team," he said.

"Some of the teenagers have already attracted attention from bigger clubs and I

have been approached to sell David Green and Alex Bundalo but there is no chance of a sale.

"Green was originally a striker but I pushed him back into defence at the beginning of the year and he's made tremendous improvement."

"Scott Dickson, whom we signed from Polonia, is another striker who's gone back into defence. Dickson performed extremely well as stopper against Juventus City and was better than when we played him in the front line."

Driene for young 'Roos

Seventeen-year-old schoolboy Martin Driene, who is making a name for himself with Marconi, may be heading for the World Youth Championships.

Marconi coach, Les Scheinflug, says: "Martin is an aggressive midfielder or fullback with speed, skills and a good soccer brain. He is that rare breed of a utility player and mainly needs experience. He is eligible for the national youth team and if he continues to improve I think he will make the squad."

"Martin literally walked off the street to trial with the club and was selected in our youth team. He represented his school in soccer and is very quick. He was tried in four National Cup matches during the international series and improved with every game."



Steve Marley (pictured) has had an unhappy initiation to NSL soccer. Marley, who played for Pollok in Scotland, joined Heidelberg-Alexander from Victorian State League club Croydon City and played only five NSL matches before an injury against Juventus put him out for the rest of the season.

MISS JUVE

The final judging of Adelaide Juventus's Miss Juventus will take place at the Miss Juventus ball on Saturday, September 15, at the Bulgarian Hall, 472 Tapleys Hill Road, Fulham Gardens. Tickets are available on 265 9151 or 261 1843.

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By CRAIG MACKENZIE

We're at Olympic Park in Melbourne. It's a Sunday in late November, and 20,000 spectators have come to watch the final of the All Nations Cup between Greece and Italy.

Both sides are stacked with talent. Theo Selemdis, Pashalis Tzintzis, (Heidelberg Alexander), Kris Kallitidis, John Kanakoulis, Angie Postecoglou (South Melbourne Hellas), Steve Kakantolis, Bill Lazopoulos (Western Suburbs) and George Borziks (Northcote) are in the Greece line-up. Coach John Margaritis is confident of victory.

Rob Terzini, Fab Angele, Bruno Cozzella, Tiziano Cavallari, Cesare Fattore (Fawker), Claude Lucchesi (Makedonia), Frank Geremia, Andrew Zinni (Juventus), Joe Angele (Heidelberg Alexander) and Fab Mancinelli (Green Gully) are in the Italian line-up, under coach Tony Boggi.

The play-off for third place, the curtain-raiser to today's final, ended with Scotland beating Yugoslavia 5-4 after extra time. Doug Brown, Joe Sweeney, Tommy Cumming, Dave Brogan and Gary McDowell scored for Scotland. Dragan Lacmanovic, Zdravko Lujic, Vlatko Belic and Slobodan Jovanovic scored for Yugoslavia.

Is Lew Stafrace, VSF publicity and promotions officer, dreaming too much? Is his plan to revive the "World Cup" of the 1950's and 1960's doomed to failure? Will the Melbourne-based NSL clubs lay down their weapons long enough to allow their players to play in a VSF tournament to celebrate 100 years of organised soccer in Victoria, run in conjunction with the State government's 150th year celebrations?

VSF seeks NSL backing for All Nations Cup



Lew Stafrace

"I sincerely hope that the All Nations Cup is a huge success. I'd like nothing better than to see NSL players participating," said Stafrace.

"So far, I'm not making much headway with the NSL people. They keep saying to me that they won't co-operate with the VSF until they get their money from ASF Marketing but that's got nothing to do with the VSF. We want to start an annual event and the support given the All Nations Cup this November will decide whether or not it becomes an important part of Victorian soccer's calendar."

Is it too much to hope that just once in 100 years, the Melbourne-based NSL clubs and the VSF will co-operate to provide us with a feast of soccer entertainment?

"I'm not one of those Federation officials who hope that the NSL fails. I hope that the NSL is a resounding success, especially now that the NSL people have re-

solved their promotion and relegation worries. Take a look at the Victorian State League and see just how competitive it is now. That's a direct result of the NSL opening up promotion to its ranks," said Stafrace.

He wasn't waving an olive branch in front of NSL bosses, in order to get them on-side with his All Nations Cup plan. He was being sincere.

Stafrace's plan involves clubs taking over the responsibilities of fielding "national" teams. Hellas, for example, could be in charge of Greece, Albion Rovers in charge of Scotland, Juventus in charge of Italy and Ringwood Wilhelmia in charge of Holland. These clubs would appoint a coach to select his squad and provide strips and team managers.

Stafrace envisages at least 16 "nations" taking part. They would be split into four groups of four, the top two in each group at the end of a round-robin series, advancing to the second stage where eight teams

would be broken into two groups of four. The top two in these groups would enter the semi-finals.

So far, the VSF hasn't sent out written details of the planned tournament to Melbourne's eight NSL clubs. That will be done this week. Stafrace no doubt will be hoping for a much better response from the NSL clubs than was received from Victorian State League, Metropolitan League and Provisional League clubs. The VSF sent out letters to its member clubs on June 28, asking for clubs to come forward and sponsor "nations". The letters gave a 14-day period for reply and at the end of last week just three clubs had responded.

Stafrace hasn't given much thought yet to raising prizemoney for the tournament. The VSF has received a State government grant of \$2,500 to cover the cost of promoting and staging the All Nations Cup.

The cup, along with a gala centenary ball, both planned for November, will be the culmination of the VSF's centenary celebrations.

Makedonia midfield weak; players don't get along: Ollerton

By CRAIG MACKENZIE

Peter Ollerton says that Preston Makedonia's midfield is its biggest weakness and he has doubts about the players' ability to fight back from their series of poor recent results.

"Whether the players can pick themselves up now, I'm not too sure. I don't think so, but for Frank McAleer's sake I hope I'm wrong," said Ollerton, who was sacked as coach and player by Makedonia last week. McAleer, who had been Ollerton's assistant for the past two seasons, took over as coach.

"It's easy to say now, I suppose, but to be honest there's not a great deal of character in that side. Quite a few of the lads are too easily upset. You've got the Makedonian boys on one side and some British boys on the other side and some of them don't get on. We'd been able to stop that sort of thing in the past but it's been harder this year."

"I've got no big grudge against the club. I've always given my best and the club's looked after me in the past. I'm the longest-serving coach in the club's history. To stay at a club like Preston from midway through the 1981 season until last week was a major achievement as far as I'm concerned."

"The only thing that pisses me off is not being able to play. The club's done this to me after the transfer deadline has passed."

Ollerton would like nothing better right now than to play with his mates at Ferntree Gully in the Metropolitan Fourth Division and enjoy a few beers after each game.

He's appealing to the ASF over his enforced playing ban. He claims that he asked Makedonia president John Branov for a transfer at least six weeks ago, after being told by the team manager that some committeemen thought he'd be better off concentrating on coaching. Ollerton claims that when he again asked Branov, about three weeks ago, the Makedonia president told him that the club had decided that he still was needed as a player. Ollerton took up the challenge of returning to peak fitness.

"I trained my bloody guts out and for what? The club sacks me after the deadline and now I've got to wait until next year to start playing again. That's not right. There's no justice in that."

"I'm appealing to the ASF to try to enable me to join another club as a player even though the deadline has passed."

Makedonia supporters and committeemen have put Ollerton's coaching and playing efforts under the microscope this year. Now, with Ollerton gone, it's the turn of Gary Cole, Graham Heys, Zarko Odzakovic, Zoran Ilioski and Con Opasinis to face close scrutiny.

"The fans have crucified Cole, Heys, Odzakovic, Ilioski and Opasinis this year. They've been calling for their heads for the past few weeks," said Ollerton.

"I really think that some players have been going onto the park frightened. I don't mean frightened about their personal safety but frightened to make mistakes out there because they know they'll cop a hell of a slagging from the fans. As a consequence, some players have been hiding during games. They haven't really wanted the ball."

"The committee told me three weeks ago that they'd had a meeting to discuss the performances of Cole, Heys, Odzakovic, Ilioski and Opasinis. John Branov and the team manager told me that just because the club had spent money on players and just because they had big names didn't mean that I had to pick them every week."

"But that's never been the case with me and frankly it never will be. I always pick lads who I think will do the job. It's as simple as that. Even though Cole was in a rut as regards scoring, I always looked at his effort out there and I considered that he was putting in more than some of these so-called stars."

"Anyway I told these five players to their faces and in front of everybody that the club wasn't happy with their efforts and if they expected to be here next year then they'd better buck up."



Gary Cole



Graham Heys



Peter Ollerton — down but not out

Ibro Cahut back home

By Walter Pless

Canberra Arrows youth team player, Ibro Cahut, 19, has returned to his former Tasmanian State League club, Croatia-Glenorchy, after the recent coaching changes at Canberra.

Cahut joined Arrows at the beginning of the year.

"There were problems with the coaching and with their organising over there," said Cahut. "Vic Fernandez left because of the committee's interference and Stuart Devlin, who took over from Vic, was sacked after only a week. I decided to return home because I just wasn't happy anymore."

Cahut represented Tasmanian at youth level and he returns to a Croatia side that is in sixth place. He played his first match in a scoreless draw with Metro-Clearmont and he was one of the best players.

Watching him at training, he certainly has become a better player because of his time with Canberra Arrows. He looked much faster and fitter.

"My whole game has improved at least 30 per cent, if not 100 per cent," said the youngster. "It's difficult to point to just one thing. Speed is definitely one area of improvement and fitness is another."

He is content to just play the season out before trying his luck on the mainland again next year. "Doug Collins has asked me to come back next season to trial for the first team," Cahut said. "I don't think that coming back home will hamper my future, although I did give up a good public service job."



Ibro Cahut — picture by "The Mercury"

Cahut's father played for Croatia as a full-back for many years so Ibro is keen to uphold the family tradition.

In brief

• Veteran striker **Dominico Penzo** has moved to **Neptunes** from **Juventus** in a \$500,000 transfer. He had been with the **Turn** club for just one year.

• French champion **Bordeaux** has signed **Fernando Chalana** from **Benfica**. Chalana, Portugal's youngest ever international, was one of the outstanding successes of the recent European Championship finals.

• The much travelled **Yugoslav** **Tomaslav Ivic** has been appointed coach of **Benfica**.

• **Chile** has withdrawn from the **Olympic Games** finals due to the refusal of its leading clubs to release players for the tournament.

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Youth leagues

VICTORIAN YOUTH LEAGUE: B.U. Juventus 5 Knox City 1, Footscray JUST 2 5th Melb Hellas 1, Frankston Pines 1 Sun-George Cross 1, Morwell Falcons 1, Melb Croatia 1, Green Gully 0 Nuna City 3, Heidelberg Alexander 1 Preston-Makedonia.

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
5th Melb Hellas	11	1	2	40	13	23
Footscray JUST	10	1	2	33	14	21
B.U. Juventus	9	2	3	29	20	20
Heidelberg Alex	9	1	4	30	12	19
Melb Croatia	6	2	4	21	14	14
Munich City	6	1	6	28	13	13
Green Gully	5	2	7	21	20	12
Makedonia	4	4	8	16	17	12
George Cross	3	5	10	20	11	11
Morwell Falcons	2	3	9	18	26	7
Frankston Pines	2	2	8	17	24	6
Knox City	0	2	12	9	31	2

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE: APia Leichhardt 1 Canberra 1, Marconi 3 St George 1, Blacktown 3 Melita Eagles 1, Sydney Hakoah 3 Penrith 0, Olympic 1 Croatia 1, AIS 3 Wollongong 1.

Standings: APia Leichhardt 19, St George 18, Melita Eagles 18, AIS 16, Canberra 16, Newcastle 16, Blacktown 16, Sydney Hakoah 13, Olympic 13, Marconi 12, Penrith 10, Croatia 8, Wollongong 5.

VSF Travel top scorers

The VSF Travel Club, in conjunction with Ametco Travel, is sponsoring our top scorer award for the National Conference.

The winner receives a trip to Europe, flying Thai International.

Leaders:

- 10. D. Brown (SM).
- 8. Konstantopoulos (WA), Winn, Patterson (H'berg).
- 6. Sweeney (Juve), Brogan (M. Cr), Daunt, Cairney (BL).

Argentinian for APIA, 4 guns for Bergrers?

By LAURIE SCHWAB

Marconi has lost Rene Colusso and Mateo Colucci without either of them playing a game, but APIA hopes for better luck with Argentinian midfielder Federico Allejoandro Gordon, 26, from River Plate in Buenos Aires.

Gordon has been recommended by former APIA star Ricardo Campa. "If you think I was good, then this boy is twice as good as I was," Campa told APIA secretary Frank Sbis. Gordon, who has had 25 appearances in River Plate's senior team but has been playing in the reserves lately, will arrive in Sydney on July 26, on a two-year contract.

Sbis, however, says Gordon will have to produce all his Latin magic to break into the APIA team which is in top gear, with Arno Bertogna, John Bradley and Rob DeCeglie firing on all cylinders.

Another APIA victory seems inevitable on Sunday, when the Italian outfit takes on Blacktown at Gabbie Stadium.

Marconi intended up to 1 pm last Sunday to use Colusso against St George Budapest. However, an expected clearance from the Italian Soccer Federation failed to arrive, so Colusso was unable to play. He returns now to Italy, without having kicked a ball for Marconi.

At least he came to Sydney! Colucci, the Italian player who was to have had a guest stint with Marconi, didn't turn up at all because of visa problems.

Perhaps it's all for the best, as coach Les Scheinflug now doesn't have to drop anyone from his winning team. With Craig Mason in a creative mood in midfield, Marconi should beat Canberra Arrows, whose coach Doug Collins was moved to comment after the loss to APIA last weekend that his midfield had been "rubbish" and his front line "a disgrace."

Heidelberg-Alexander coach Brian Garvey has an embarrassment of riches following the arrival of Scottish striker Stuart Stevenson. The other three strikers in the squad — Steve Winn, Paul Tzintzis and Scott Patterson — are also top-line players too valuable to drop. Perhaps Garvey should try using all four of them — Tzintzis coming back deep on the right as Patterson does on the left, and Stevenson partnering Winn in the middle.

Against Brisbane City on Sunday, sweeper Charlie Yankos returns after a two-week suspension, but left back John Gabrielson is out for a long time with a chipped ankle bone.

The George Cross v Croatia match at Chaplin Reserve will be featured on Channel O's "Match of the Day" programme on Sunday night.

George Cross was unlucky not to beat Adelaide City Juventus last weekend, as Don McLaren missed a penalty, but will find it harder against Croatia which has so much talent that it can't find regular positions for Socceros Jim Campbell and Peter Lewis. Keith Adams also is back from overseas, to add to the team selection problems of coach Tony Vrzina who, incidentally, is the only NSL coach not to have experienced defeat so far this season.

George Cross hopes to have Jim O'Reilly back from overseas to help counter the powerful Croatia attack. Croatia has the ability to score from anywhere — Brogan, Markovac, Biskic, Cumming, Goejovic, Antolovic and Campbell if he plays, all have the goalscoring knack.

Green Gully should regain the services of full back David Hogben who was suspended last weekend, while Juventus looks a better side since the inclusion of Brian Brown from Scotland. Both teams are desperate — Green Gully because of the relegation threat and Juventus because it wants to stay in the top five, so I expect a draw by two teams unwilling to risk mistakes.

Green Gully expects midfielder Gordon Wallace to arrive from Scotland on August 17 and David Smallman has been reinstated to the squad after a letter of apology over his behavior.

Sydney Hakoah and Sydney Olympic take centre stage in the Australian Conference. Hakoah will miss sweeper Alex Robertson who was sent off against Penrith, but this great club has proved time and time again that it has an abundance of back-up players able to step into the team and do as well, if not better, than the men they replace.

I fancy Olympic this time, though. Peter Katollos and Marshall Soper haven't scored for a while. The law of averages demands that they do, and such is the nature of these players that they'll break loose in a big match such as this.

• To Page 14

Sunday's NSL matches with likely winners in capitals:
Brisbane City v HEIDELBERG-ALEXANDER at Spencer Park, 3 pm.

Juventus v Green Gully (draw) at Olympic Park No. 2, 3 pm.

PRESTON MAKEDONIA v Adelaide City Juventus at Connor Reserve, 3 pm.

SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS v Newcastle-Rosebud at Middle Park, 3 pm.

Sunshine-George Cross v MELBOURNE CROATIA at Chaplin Reserve, 3 pm.

West Adelaide Hellas v Footscray J.U.S.T. (draw) at Hindmarsh Stadium, 2.30 pm.

Wollongong v PENRITH at Wollongong Showgrounds, 3 pm.

SYDNEY CROATIA v Brisbane Lions at King Tomislav, 3 pm.

Sydney City Hakoah v SYDNEY OLYMPIC at Sydney Athletic Field, 3 pm.

St George Budapest v Melita Eagles (draw) at St George Stadium, 3 pm.

Canberra Arrows v MARCONI at Bruce Stadium, 3 pm.

Blacktown v APIA-LEICHHARDT at Gabbie Stadium, 3 pm.

WADE CLOSES

Paul Wade of Green Gully has moved closer to leader John Bradley of APIA in the voting for the \$1500 Boral Bricks Player of the Year award.

And Canberra goalkeeper Tony Franken has consolidated third position.

John Kosmina remained the leader in the Boral Bricks \$1000 top scorer award, with David Lowe of Marconi moving into equal second spot.

Top vote-getters:
63. Bradley (APIA)
51. Wade (GG)
50. Franken (C)
42. McIntosh (P)
41. Kosmina (SC)
36. P. Tredinnick (APIA)
34. Waterspoon (P), Jackson (BL), Yankos (H'berg)
33. McPherson (ME), Wishart (BC), Melita (AC)
32. Murphy (SM), McDowell (JUST), Katollos (SO)
31. Williams (GG), Biskic (Melb Cr), Hoare (Black), O'Reilly (GC), Bromfield (BC),

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Farina (C)
30. Liddell (BC)
Top scorers:
14. Kosmina (SC)
10. D. Brown (SM), Lowe (Marc)
9. Bradley (APIA), Katollos (SO)
8. Konstantopoulos (WA), Winn, Patterson (H'berg), McCulloch (Marc)
7. Jankovics, R. Brown (Marc), Brandt (New-Cr), Arnold (S. Cr), Marton (St.G), Fletcher (SC).

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

BRUNSWICK JUVENTUS 1 (Brown 62nd) NEWCASTLE ROSEBUD 1 (Power 18th) at Olympic Park No. 2. Crowd: 808. Ratings by Craig MacKenzie.

BRUNSWICK JUVENTUS: Keogh 7 — Geremia 7 (inj), Lloyd h.t. 6), Brown 7, Drinocky 7, Campbell 5 — Rogers 7, Dowie 8, Swinscoe 7 — Cullen 7, Ward 7, Zinni 6, Coach: John Margaritis.
NEWCASTLE ROSEBUD: Hampton 7 — Miler 7, Boogard 7, Power 7, Thompson 7 — Brandt 8, Senkalski 7, McQuarrie 7, Jones 8 — Mileosevic 6, Johns 8, Coach: Willie Gallagher.
Best six for Boral Bricks best player award: 6. Brandt (NR), 5. Dowie (BJ), 4. D. Jones (NR), 3. Johns (NR), 2. Brown (BJ), 1. Boogard (NR).

FOOTSCRAY J.U.S.T. 1 (Blair own goal 54th) SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS 2 (Egan 25th, Murphy 42nd) at Schintler Reserve. Crowd about 4000. Ratings by Laurie Schwab.

J.U.S.T.: Boland 6 — Curovic 8, Kyriakoulas 7, McDowell 9, Hazabent 7 — Karic 5 (Caban 64th), Bell 7, O'Donnell 6 (Tansey 64th) — Carroll 6, Lachmanovic 5 (sent off 70th), Lujic 8, Coach: Cedo Cirkovic.
HELLAS: Launette 8 — Russell 8, Blair 7, Kalitaditis 7, Postecoglou 7 — Davidson 7, Zvendorn 8, Halford 7, Murphy 7 — Brown 8, Egan 8, Coach: Len McKendry.
Best six for Boral Bricks award: 6. McDowell (JUST), 5. Brown (Hellas), 4. Egan (Hellas), 3. Zvendorn (Hellas), 2. Lujic (JUST), 1. Curovic (JUST).

GREEN GULLY 2 (Wade 29th, Lewis 67th) WEST ADELAIDE HELLAS 1 (Panagis 40th) at Green Gully reserve. Crowd 600. Ratings by Ken Kontra.

GREEN GULLY: Denys 8 — McClelland 6, Cannell 7, Williams 8, Mancinelli 5 — Vassallo 6, Wade 9, Smart 6, McGuinness 6 — Carter 7, Lewis 7, Coach: Bobby MacLachlan.
WEST ADELAIDE HELLAS: Sprout 7 — Hiern 7, Honeyman 6, McGachey 7, McGregor 6 — Brown 7, Manou 7, Panagis 8, Papadopoulos 6 (Mousoulis 80th) — Malavazos 6 (Krytkos 72nd), Konstantopoulos 8, Coach: Sam Salabasidis.
Best six for Boral Bricks best player award: 6. Wade (GG), 5. Panagis (WA), 4. Williams (GG), 3. Konstantopoulos (WA), 2. McGregor (WA), 1. Denys (GG).

HEIDELBERG ALEXANDER 2 (Winn 8th and 17th) PRESTON MAKEDONIA 1 (Odzakov 5th) at Olympic Village. Attendance: 4000 (estimate). Ratings by Peter Desira.

HEIDELBERG ALEXANDER: Oliver 7 — McKie 8, Angela 8, MacLeod 7, Gabrielson 7 — Tzintzis 46m 7), Petersen 9, Selemidis 7, Valentine 7 — Stevenson 7, Patterson 8, Winn 7, Coach: Brian Garvey.
MAKEDONIA: Potter 7 — Opsanis 8, Iloski 7, Dobson 8, Petrovsky 7 — Odzakov 7, Dunn 8, McMillan 7, Campbell 7 (Bajevski 80m) — Cole 7 (Heys 80m), Lucchesi 7, Coach: Frank McAleer.
Best six for Boral Bricks best player award: 6. Petersen, 5. Dunn, 4. Angela, 3. McKie, 2. Patterson, 1. Opsanis.

BRISBANE CITY 0 MELBOURNE CROATIA 1 (Markovac 79th) at Spencer Park. Crowd: 1202. Ratings by Ricky Rosso.

BRISBANE CITY: Wishart 8 — Mengotti 5 (Fabrizio 62nd), Liddell 7, Milovanovic 6, Bromfield 6 — O'May 7, Pink 8, Swain 7, Hughes 6 (Walt 55th) — Glockner 7, Hamilton 7, Coach: Joe Gilroy.
MELBOURNE CROATIA: Blasby 7 — Deankovic 5, Parton 7, Hannah 7, Curcio 7 — Biskic 8, Antolovic 9, Goejovic 6 (Lewis 80th) — Markovac 9, Brogan 8, Cumming 7 (Campbell 87th), Coach: Tony Vrzina.
Best six for Boral Bricks award: 6. Markovac (MC), 5. Antolovic (MC), 4. Wishart (BC), 3. Pimblett (BC), 2. Biskic (MC), 1. Brogan (MC).

ADELAIDE JUVENTUS 1 (Villani 8th) SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS 1 (Toal 66th) at Olympic Sportsfield. Crowd: 900. Ratings by Frank Pangallo.

ADELAIDE JUVENTUS: McNally 7, Cecere 6 (Gatenby 55th), Melita 8, Flounders 8, Nyskohus 7 — Scarpa 7, Maxwell 6, Villani 7 — Tallierio 5, Muller 6, Tavoni 5 (Tobin 75th), Coach: Edmund Krest.
SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS: Costello 7 — Bain 7, Bennett 6, Scerri 6, Taylor 6 — Faulkner 7, MacLaren 7, Jovanovic 6 — Toal 8, McGorlan 7, Latif 7, Coach: Billy Wilkinson.
Best six for Boral Bricks best player award: 6. Toal, 5. Melita, 4. McGorlan, 3. Villani, 2. MacLaren, 1. Scarpa.

AUSTRALIAN CONFERENCE

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 2 (Patikas 36', 44') SYDNEY CROATIA 0 at Pratten Park. Crowd: 3677. Ratings by Knut Werner:

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Meier 7 — Rogers 7 (Koussas 71st), Lambropoulos 7, Dakos 9, Jennings 7 — Phillips 7, Raskopoulos 8, Patikas 9 — Katollos 8, Soper 8, Theodorakopoulos 7, Coach: Manfred Schaefer.
SYDNEY CROATIA: Watson 7 — Woods 7, Starrey 7, Vidalc 7, Tomasich 8 — Rezo 6, Savor 7, Sharne 8 (Cooden 85th) — Jurin 7 (Borges 46th), Arnold 6, Godzik 7, Coach: Harry Noon.
Best six for Boral Bricks best player award: 6. Patikas (SO), 5. Dakos (SO), 4. Raskopoulos (SO), 3. Katollos (SO), 2. Soper (SO), 1. Savor (Cr).

MELITA EAGLES 1 (McKie 70th) BLACKTOWN CITY 0 at Melita Stadium. Crowd: 1,123. Ratings by George Streeter:

MELITA EAGLES: Hummell 7 — McAusland 7, McGinn 8, Wilson 7, Tredinnick 7 — Allan 8, Jamieson 6, Davies 8 — Griffith 7, McKie 8, Laing 8, Coach: Paul Blance.
BLACKTOWN CITY: Hoare 8 — Shaw 6, Dunleavy 8, Painter 7, Skelton 7 — Salvage 8, Quarmby 7 (Mountford 76th), Byrne 8 — Sandy 7 (65th Thortwaite), Eaton 5, O'Connor 6, Coach: Casey de Bruin.
Best six for Boral Bricks best player award: 6. Davies, 5. Dunleavy, 4. Hoare, 3. Laing, 2. McKie, 1. Salvage (B).

MARCONI 4 (Jankovics 16th, Sharne 35th, McCulloch Pen. 60th, Henderson 87th), ST GEORGE 1 (Slater 26th) at Marconi Stadium. Crowd: 1417.

MARCONI: James 8 — Carter 7 (Mariani 72nd), Henderson 8, Colman 7, Rizzotto 6 (Spanos 52nd), 6) — McCulloch 7, Mason 8, Jankovics 9 — Lowe 7, Brover 7, Sharne 8 (Cooden 85th), Coach: Les Scheinflug.
ST GEORGE: Young 8 — Skeen 7, M. O'Shea 6, Ratcliffe 6, Danaskos 6 — Stone 6, O'Shea 8, Ricoy 6 — Slater 6, Koczka 6, Batten 6 (Petkovski 67th), Coach: Frank Ark.
Best six for Boral Bricks best player award: 6. Jankovics, 5. Mason, 4. J. O'Shea, 3. Lowe, 2. Sharne, 1. Ratcliffe.

PENRITH 0 SYDNEY CITY 0 at Cook Park. Ratings by Roger Sherack:

PENRITH: Gibson 8 — Brogan 7, Hale 8, McIntosh 8, Cross 7 — Campbell 7, Waterspoon 7, Fitzharris 7 — Hunter 6, Easthorpe 6, Jackson 6, Coach: Williano Wallace.
SYDNEY CITY: Pezillo 7 — Cant 8, O'Connor 8, Robertson 7 (sent off 64th), De Marigny 7 — Gomez 7, Watson 7, Barnes 7 — Fletcher 6 (Murray 70th), Kosmina 6, Lee 5 (Key 81st), Coach: Eddie Thomson.
Best six for Boral Bricks best player award: 6. McIntosh (P), 5. Cant (SC), 4. O'Connor (SC), 3. Hale (P), 2. Gibson (P), 1. Waterspoon (P).

APIA-LEICHHARDT 2 (Caban 42nd, De Ceglie 107th) CANBERRA ARROWS 0 at Henson Park. Crowd: 1574. Ratings by Mick Mikolajczyk:

APIA: Parks 8, Bozanic 7, Bertogna 9, Pullen 7, Brown 7; Gray 7, Butler 7, Tredinnick 6; Bradley 7, Canton 7, De Ceglie 8, Coach: F. Bottalico.
CANBERRA ARROWS: Franken 9, Obang 6, Harkins 6, Redmond 7, Jones 6; Hogg 6 (Reis 5, 69), Sermanni 6 (Bryant 47, 61) Brockbank 6; Gibson 6, Farina 6, Phillips 6, Coach: D. Collins.
Best six for Boral Bricks best player award: 6. A. Bertogna (AI), 5. T. Franken (AI), 4. R. De Ceglie (AI), 3. B. Parks (AI), 2. Bradley (AI), 1. T. Redmond (C).

WOLLONGONG 3 (Kotamanidis 2, Beggs) BRISBANE LIONS 2 (McDonagh, Cairney) at Towradg Park. Crowd: 500 approximately. Ratings by Phillip Micallef:

WOLLONGONG: Tilised 7 — Green 7, Vilesttra 7, Dickson 7, Fleming 7 — Hristovski 7, Gaffney 9, Kerr 7 — Bundalo 7, Beggs 8, Kotamanidis 8, Coach: Adrian Allison.
BRISBANE LIONS: Farrow 7 — Jackson 7, Hunter 7, Vasquez 6, Niven 6 — McKimmings 6, Stewart 6, Juma 6 — Daunt 6, McDonagh 6, Cairney 6 (Anderson 78th), Coach: Gordon Artowsmith.
Best six for Boral Bricks best player award: 6. Gaffney, 5. Beggs, 4. Kotamanidis 3, Vilesttra 2, Hunter 1, Farrow 1.

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MARKOVAC DAZZLES, BROGAN SUSPENDED?

Brisbane City 0 Melb Croatia 1

Scorer: Markovac 79th.
Venue: Spencer Park
Cautions: Deankovic (MC)
28th, Brogan (MC) 87th.
Referee: Dave Nugent 7.

Brisbane City coach Joe Gilroy described young striker Robert Markovac as the best prospect he had seen in the NSL this year after Melbourne Croatia had beaten Brisbane City at Spencer Park.

Markovac, the former Victorian youth team player, scored Croatia's winner in the 79th minute, and although that was only an easy tap-in after a David Brogan shot had been parried by Kim Wishart, the youngster caused a lot of problems in the City defence.

"I knew nothing about him before the teams went on the park and I am surprised to learn he is so young. He is the first player this season who has been able to put it over Frank Liddell and that in itself is an indication of his ability."

"I certainly would love to have a player like Markovac at Spencer Park. I think he was the difference between the two teams today," Gilroy said.

Both teams attacked from the outset on a slippery surface. Much of the play was concentrated in the centre of the park which allowed City's master playmaker Frank Pimblett to dictate.

Croatia looked most dangerous when it swung the ball wide for the speedy Josip Biskic to attack down the flanks and the little winger nearly setup two goals in the first half.

In the 14th minute he beat two players to put in a high cross which Wishart could only punch to Cumming. His shot was blocked but rebounded for Brogan who in his haste to knock the ball into the net, scooped it over the top.

Ten minutes later Biskic's cross found Brogan at the far post but Wishart literally

punched the ball off Brogan's head to stop the goal.

Markovac also got into the action and was unlucky not to score when he found himself unmarked in front of the goal. But as he tried to control a pass from the left the ball bobbed up and hit his elbow to bring a handball decision from referee Dave Nugent.

City's best opportunity of the half came when Liddell rose to head a Bromfield throw-in over Peter Blazby, but the attempt went fractionally wide.

The success Biskic and Markovac were having when they ran at the City fullbacks prompted a half time decision by Croatia coach Tony Vrzina to concentrate all the second half attacks down the flanks. And the move worked well for Croatia.

Pimblett found the ball no longer came his way and he lost his control on the match.

City began to get stretched at the back and it was only some fine keeping from Wishart that kept the Brisbane team in the game for so long.

Man of the Match: ROBERT MARKOVAC (Melb. Croatia)



Ricky Rosso

Markovac went close in the 55th, 58th and 75th minutes while Brogan and Gojevic also put in fine efforts.

City's best attempt was a 72nd minute shot from Hamilton which brought a good save from Blasby.

But it seemed only a matter of time before Croatia would break through and when Liddell failed to clear a Biskic shot, the half chance was all Brogan needed and he cracked. His shot which eventually set up Markovac for the winner.

After the goal, Vrzina consolidated his defence by bringing on National B team player Peter Lewis, who should have been on the park in the first place ahead of the cumbersome Deankovic.

Man of the Match: LARRY GAFFNEY (Wollongong)

Wollongong 3 Lions 2

Scorers: Kotamanidis 2, Incl. pen, Beggs (W); McDonagh, Cairney (L).
Venue: Towragi Park.
Crowd: 500
Referee: Leighton S.
Cautions: Dickson, Beggs (Wollongong), McSkimmings (L).

Wollongong midfielder Larry Gaffney's performance in leading his side to a surprising but deserved victory over Brisbane Lions was the highlight of the match.

The gritty midfielder, who has not been able to shake off a two-year-old hamstring injury, was the source of inspiration for his younger team mates who came back from two goals down to snatch a dramatic victory.

Thinking, perhaps, he was still a Brisbane City player in a derby against the "Auld enemy", the gallant midfielder won his duel with Russell Stewart hands down.

Gaffney was sadly missed in Wollongong's previous match against Sydney Hakoah.



Philip Micallef

Gaffney floors the old enemy

But with his return, Wollongong's midfield improved beyond recognition and his contribution confirmed the old saying that nothing can match experience when it comes to the crunch.

The match left much to be desired from a technical point of view but as a contest it was fascinating — with no quarter asked or given.

Wollongong's victory was well-deserved although for most of the match the Lions gave as much as they got.

The visitors appeared headed towards a comfortable win after taking a two-goal lead after a quarter of an hour.

First McDonagh shot home a thundering shot after Ron Tised had failed to hold a high cross from the right.

Then Cairney was put inside by a faulty piece of control by

Vietstra and the striker had no difficulty in putting the visitors two up.

Wollongong's reply was immediate.

Kotamanidis ran well to collect a fine through ball from Beggs and managed to slot the ball in off the upright.

Straight from the kick-off the Lions lost possession and Beggs again served Kotamanidis who fired a rising shot from a narrow angle.

In the second half both sides tried hard to break the deadlock but both defences stood firm.

But with only nine minutes to go, Wollongong scored.

Kotamanidis was pushed in the area by McSkimmings and Beggs capped a marvelous afternoon by putting away the resultant spot kick.

BROWN SCORES, ROSEBUD AND ZOUMAS IMPRESS

B. Juventus 1 N. Rosebud 1

Scorers: Brown 62nd (BJ), Power 18th (NR).
Venue: Olympic Park No. 2.
Crowd: 808.
Cautions: Ward (BJ)
Referee: Sam Zoumas 8.

During the youth game I took time off from marveling at the skills of Juve's "little Platini", Reno Minichiello, to tell Brunswick Juventus coach John Margaritis that his mate Sam Zoumas was refereeing this match against Newcastle Rosebud.

Margaritis muttered in Greek, held his head in hands, sucked feverishly on a borrowed cigarette, then started pacing up and down in front of me.

"I'll have to sit in the grand-

stand from the start of this game," he said, recalling the Sunday a few weeks ago when Zoumas sent Margaritis off the Juventus bench for alleged abuse.

Margaritis exorcised his deepest fears by offering an olive branch, in the form of a few, well-chosen words, to Zoumas well before the kick-off.

Then it was time for action. Most of the 888 spectators, just over 400 of whom paid to get in, wanted to see Falkirk captain Brian Brown in action. Brown arrived last Friday and was playing the first of 12 guest games.

Zoumas followed the players onto the pitch. His reception was what's called "mixed". In this case the mix involved jeers, boos and swearing.

And each time Zoumas awarded a free kick against



Craig Mackenzie

Juventus, the abuse from the terraces got louder. For a few seconds.

Even though Zoumas was right on most occasions. In fact, Zoumas gave a fine display here and the fact that Juventus had to fight every inch of the way for a point was because Newcastle Rosebud is a good side and certainly doesn't deserve to be second bottom in the National Conference. Zoumas had nothing to do with the result, other than ensuring that the match was played within the laws of the game.

Man of the Match: SIMON BRANDT (Newc. Rosebud)

Newcastle Rosebud was the better side in the first half and thoroughly deserved to lead at half time. It was able to string passes together and go forward, something Juventus couldn't do.

David Jones was superb in this half. He started off wide on the left and his passing was a treat. He switched to the right flank in the latter part of the half and continued to stroke the ball about in style.

What a good, honest player is Andrew Johns, the Newcastle Rosebud striker. He's got good close control, is mobi-

le, and never stops offering himself. And he's able to hold possession until he gets support from a midfielder or fellow striker.

It was Johns who set up Newcastle Rosebud's 18th minute goal with a neat back header at the near post. Neville Power had left his central defensive post and slid down to tap in at the far post. No Juventus defender was in sight.

Margaritis was forced to take off Frank Geremia at half time. Geremia was the victim of stomach cramps. On came Kevin Lloyd. He went up front and Billy Rogers, in midfield for the first half, went to right back.

Two minutes into the second half, Ward headed goalward from a Swinscoe corner. Ralph Maier headed off the Newcastle Rosebud line.

Then Simon Brandt cracked a 20 metre effort just over.

John Dowie's free kick in the 62nd minute was firmly headed by Brown, forcing Michael Hampton to tip over. From the ensuing Swinscoe corner, Brown, free at the near post, headed in to make it 1-1.

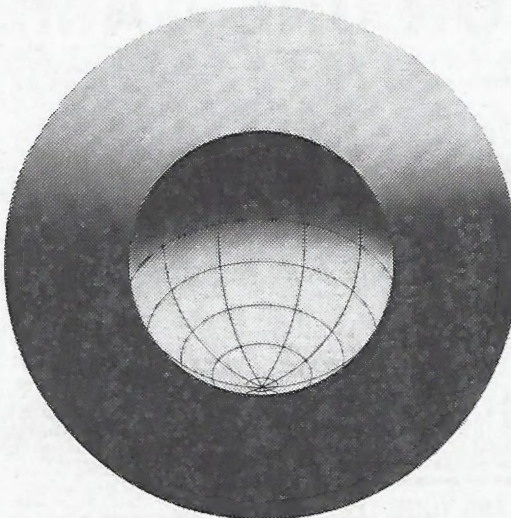
Juventus had decided to have a go in the second stanza and Brown's goal was the reward for a much more spirited Juve effort.

Nevertheless, take nothing away from Newcastle Rosebud. It recovered well from the set-back of leaving Brown unmarked for the equaliser and defended superbly. Robbie Cullen and Andrew Zinni tried to run at defenders but rarely got past while Michael Boogard and Power were aggressive and commanding as central defenders.

Newcastle Rosebud thoroughly deserved this point.

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FOOTS JUST 1 SM-Hellas 2

Scorers: Egan 25th 1-0, Murphy 42nd 2-0, Blair own goal 54th 2-1.
Venue: Schintler Reserve.
Crowd: about 4000.
Cautions: Curovic (JUST), Blair (Hellas), Belic (JUST), Davidson (Hellas).
Sent off: Lacomovic (JUST) 70th.
Referee: Jim Fearn 4.

Hellas remains on top of the ladder after surviving a spirited fight-back by J.U.S.T., yet the Greek fans are not giving the club the support it expects.

Hellas president Leo Anezakis says crowds are lower than last year, and if the trend continues, Hellas may stop paying signing-on fees to players next year.

"We need the support of the Greek fans, because it costs a lot of money to keep a winning team going. They must realise that we have built this team for the spectators, and that we can't do any more than win games and stay at the top of the ladder, as we are doing now," Anezakis said.

"In the past, we used to get very good crowds against the glamour clubs from Sydney — Hakoah, Marconi, APIA — because those clubs had big reputations and big players. We used to promote those games on radio and in the Press, but the fans aren't coming along to see the less glamorous local clubs, which are very hard to promote."

J.U.S.T. had its star Yugoslav recruit Dragan Lacomovic sent off over a harmless collision with Steve Blair on Sunday, yet still came close to equalising in the second half.

Coach Cedo Kirckovic made a productive move when he brought in Jim Tansey and Tony Caban to replace Tom Karic and Brian O'Donnell. Tansey went to defence, allowing Gary McDowell — the man of the match — to move into midfield, along with Caban who is noted for scoring vital late goals.

McDowell peppered away at Hellas goalkeeper Peter Laumets but Laumets stood firm.

Lacomovic, who played with a paining injection because of a thigh injury, was sent off by referee Jim Fearn in the 70th minute. The TV replay of the incident however, showed nothing more than a straight-on accidental collision between Lacomovic and Blair.

Lacomovic, who joined J.U.S.T. recently after leaving for Red Star and Galenika, said after the match that referee Fearn was of "European fifth division" standard.

Coach Kirckovic, who also ex-

Signing-on fees out at Hellas?



Laurie Schwab

pressed disappointment in Fearn's refereeing, claimed Hellas's first goal, scored by Charlie Egan with a header, had been offside. Blair headed it back off the byeline, John Yzendoorn — playing in midfield in the absence of suspended Oscar Crino — hooked it to the far post, and Egan, stationed practically on the goal line, headed it in.

Hellas coach Len McKendry, on the other hand, claimed his team should have been three goals ahead by half time. Indeed, Doug Brown, who had a very good game, had two early chances — the first saved well by Dennis Boland — but Lacomovic too, should have scored in the first half before Hellas opened its account.

Lacomovic's chance came in the 18th minute, after a square pass from Zdravko Lujic who had a spirited battle with Bobby Russell, but Lacomovic, unmarked, belted it over the bar.

After Hellas had taken the lead through Egan in the 25th minute, Lacomovic shot too high at the other end, and just before half time came Hellas's second goal.

A corner by Brown resulted in Egan taking a close-range shot, Boland blocking it and Ken Murphy slotting home the rebound.

Just after half time, a header by McDowell brought a spectacular one-handed save from Peter Laumets, and in the 54th minute, it was 2-1.

McDowell, Lujic and Vlatko Belic — who had a tough tussle with Alan Davidson — all were involved in a sustained attack that started with a McDowell header. Yzendoorn and Carl Halford twice cleared off the goal line, then Lujic lobbed the ball back in and Blair, in trying to clear, scored an own goal off the goalpost. There was some doubt about whether the ball actually had crossed the line, but referee Fearn allowed it.

Man of the Match:
GARY McDOWELL
(JUST)

Tansey's stylishly chipped free kicks caused Hellas a lot of problems during the second half. He lobbed the ball into the penalty area, and Belic and McDowell challenged strongly in the air but their efforts failed to bring the goal. J.U.S.T. was hoping for.



Melbourne Croatia's Robert Markovac (left) toasts his goal against Brisbane City with a cool Coke, as he's congratulated by his coach Tony Vrzina. See report page 5. Picture by CARLOS PICASSO.

GEORGIE BLOWS IT, ITALIANS DEPART

By FRANK PANGALLO

AC Juventus 1 Geo. Cross 1

Scorers: Villani (AC) 8th
Goal 66th
Venue: Olympic Sports Field.

Cautions: Melita (AC) Toal, MacLaren (GC)
Referee: A. Martell (SA) 5.

It was a bleak day at Olympic Sports Field and not just because of the cold, wet and windy conditions.

It was the swansong for Adelaide Juventus' guest players Tomaso Tallero and Nello Scarpa, who returned to Italy this week to resume their Third Division careers after a brief sojourn Down Under.

And Sunshine George Cross, lying at the bottom, missed a penalty and consequently the chance to grab two points in their Third Division display with a brief sojourn Down Under.

Adelaide Juventus had the better of the first half exchanges, taking the lead after eight minutes when Charlie Villani pounced on a defensive error to sweep the ball past Tom Costello in the George Cross goal.

Scarpa played with authority in the middle and had great support from Melita but Juve lacked sparkle and polish elsewhere.

Juve has had a torrid time in attack this season and it isn't because its strikers are "goal shy" to use a hackneyed cliché.

In fact, Juve's entire striking force is a cliché. It is out of touch and out of its depth in this league — even against the bottom team.

Joe Mullen's form has tapered right off and while it's partly his fault, the rest must be borne by his immediate teammates, like Steve Maxwell and the newest addition to mediocrity, Giovanni Tavoni.

Tavoni hails from Italy — but that's hardly a recommendation. He's but a teenager and an ordinary one at that, going by his performance against George Cross.

Man of the Match:
BOBBY TOAL
(George Cross)

Although Juve deserves credit for its initiative of bringing out the two better-credentialed Italians, one must ask what the future holds for Juve now that they're gone. In a word, it's bleak.

While Tallero didn't live up to the form guide produced by Bob D'Ottavio, Scarpa more than showed his class and his overall worth shouldn't be gauged by a poor game in Melbourne the week before.

Scarpa added depth and class to Juve's midfield and he'll leave a gaping hole — which means more responsibilities for Maxwell and, God forbid, more opportunities for Mark Gatenby?

Juve has problems and will need to find something above

the ordinary in the next few weeks to avoid the indignity of the wooden spoon . . . and possible relegation.

George Cross showed enough in the second half to suggest it will win more games than Juve can for the remainder of the season.

Bobby Toal, one of George Cross' better players, grabbed the vital equaliser in the 66th minute after a mix-up in the Juve defence.

The Melbourne team, battling between the elements and a poor surface, clawed its way into contention for two points with a spirited performance.

It almost paid dividends. Four minutes from the end, Bugsy Nyskohus is alleged to have committed a foul in the box and referee Martell wasted little time in pointing to the spot.

The fans thought it was a harsh decision but they need not have worried because Don MacLaren let Juve off the hook by banging his spot kick against the bar.

Sproul blocks penalty but Wade pounces

Man of the Match:
PAUL WADE
(Green Gully)

telling final pass to checkmate the Gully defence.

Its front-runners, Nick Malavazos and George Konstantopoulos, impressed with their strong running, but that all-important final touch just did not eventuate.

The match started with some early pressure from the Gully, and in the third minute Les Carter's pass found Paul Lewis completely unmarked on the edge of the penalty area, but his first-time shot missed the target.

In the 20th minute, Bobby McGuinness latched onto a loose ball and hammered it on 20 metres. Garry Sproul managed to get a hand to it and then saved Paul Lewis' shot from the rebound.

Konstantopoulos created problems for the Gully defence with his aggressive running and Steve McLelland was forced to pull him down on the edge of the penalty area in the 21st minute. The free kick was pushed back for McGregor, and Lou Denys did well to palm his powerful shot around the post for a corner.

At the other end, McGachey upended Paul Lewis inside the area and referee Evan Venios had no hesitation in awarding a penalty. Stuart Cannell's poor spot kick was parried by Sproul but Paul Wade was following through and his diving header gave Gully the lead.

In the 40th minute, Konstantopoulos drew several defenders wide on the right, and his low cross was put away by John Panagis from 10 metres to level the scores.

continued to have the better of the midfield exchanges but was unable to penetrate the Gully defence.

In the 67th minute, Lewis scored the winning goal in typical fashion. Wade passed to Carter who played a through ball for Lewis. He outsped one defender and rounded another before beating Sproul with a low shot just inside the upright.

Just two minutes later Papadopoulos squandered a golden opportunity to equalise when he shot straight at Denys from 10 metres when completely unmarked.

He's deadly

Steven Spoljaric can't stop scoring goals.

Everyone connected with Hampton Park United's juniors knows about Steven's scoring exploits and the club really is proud of their super-scorer.

You see, Steven is only seven years old and he's already scored more than 40 goals this year.

His name appears time and again whenever Hampton Park United officials apply to "Soccer Action" for hat-trick diplomas.

Well done, Steven, and even though our office staff cringe whenever another application for hat-trick diplomas from your club appears in our mail, we hope you keep banging in

Bertogna shows the way

Man of the Match:
ARNO BERTOGNA
(APIA)



Mick Mikolajczyk

APIA 2 Canberra 0

Scorers: Caban 42nd, De Ceglie 80th
At Henson Park
Referee: G. Power 8

APIA kept up its steady challenge on leader Hakoah with a workmanlike and fully deserved victory over unimaginative Canberra Arrows in a rather untidy game at Henson Park.

Both sides were willing in their challenges for the ball and referee Gary Power did well to resist handing out any yellow cards for a lot of indiscreet tackles.

APIA was the quicker of the two sides to settle down and as early as the 4th minute, Arrows keeper Tony Franken was well positioned to save Kerry Caban's header.

Canberra, playing square at the back, were always in trouble whenever APIA's mid fielders slipped short passes into space for their strikers to run onto.

Up front the visitors relied heavily on the speed of Farina and Phillips who were well contained by the APIA defence superbly marshalled by Arno Bertogna.

Midway through the first half APIA created two great scoring chances.

In the 22nd minute John Bradley lobbed Terry Butler's freekick to Vic Bozanic who volleyed over the bar from five metres. Three minutes later Caban's drive was bravely saved point-blank by fearless Franken.

For all their efforts, laboured unrewarded until three minutes from halftime. A quick counter saw John Bradley's precision pass find Kerry Caban breaking clear and the big striker didn't waste this chance to glide the ball past Franken into the net.

Two minutes later Caban nearly scored his second but stopper Tony Redmond did well to head over from virtually under the crossbar.

Little changed after interval. The Arrows struggled on and APIA continued to miss chance after chance.

Typical of APIA's misses was one in the 53rd minute. Left winger Robert De Ceglie made a dazzling run into the penalty area, beat two defenders and cut the ball back to Caban but the striker's attempted shot from six metres trickled tamely wide.

Although Canberra worked hard, they were unable to find APIA's dominating centre back Bertogna and in form keeper Barry Parks insurmountable hurdles.

In the 74th minute the Arrows' Tony Redmond did well to head over from virtually under the crossbar.

Moments later De Ceglie made great progress on the left before cutting the ball inside to Bradley but the diminutive striker squandered the chance by sidefooting wide from close range.

De Ceglie again involved himself to best effect when he swept through the Canberra ranks, controlled Bradley's pass and measured a hard drive low into Franken's far corner.

The goal sealed the match and indeed capped a fine performance by the young APIA forward who in his form should figure in many more first team outings.

As for Canberra, little can be said apart from the stirring performance by keeper Tony Franken who saved his side from a greater beating.

His continuing good form was perhaps coach Doug Collins' only consolation as Canberra wondered aimlessly on the cold wide windswept ex-

TWO REFEREES FOR ONE GAME

Melita Eagles 1 Blacktown 0

Scorer: McKie 70th
Venue: Melita Stadium.
Crowd: 1123.
Referee: Bob Davies

Cautions: McGinn, Allan, Davies (Melita), Skellern (B).

The Eagles are flying and Raul Blanco can smile again, all due to a magnificent move which ended with one of the best goals seen at Melita Stadium.

Howard Tredinnick won the ball deep in his own half before sending Billy Griffiths down the left flank into an attacking situation. Griffiths slipped a low cross to McKie who hammered a first-time well out of reach of Barry Hoare.

It was a fast and entertaining game and this goal certainly was in tune with the rest of the match. It is to be hoped that more people will venture to watch National League matches should this



George Streeter

standard prevail.

Blacktown City, beaten but not disgraced, sorely missed Robert Wheatley, who was the first time in three and a half years at Blacktown that Wheatley had missed a game through injury.

Richard Lorenc also missed this match, not through injury, but some administrative error. One of our best-known referees, Lorenc arrived at the ground as per programme.

However, Bob Davies, of Newcastle, received a letter last week advising him he had been appointed to this match. The appointment of Lorenc was not cancelled however and nobody

Man of the Match:
JOHN DAVIES
(Melita Eagles)

even bothered to ring and advise him not to go to the match.

The players stood in the middle of the park waiting for the referee (it reminds me of the hassles in the under 13 division almost weekly).

In the end the decision was made at Marconi Stadium — some 30 kms away — by Malcolm Buchanan. Bob Davies, after travelling all the way from Newcastle was preferred to Lorenc who only had to make a 20-minute trip from Meadowbank.

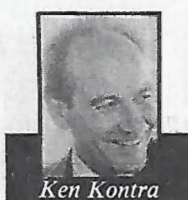
Will Lorenc be paid for his troubles?

Who will sit before the judiciary for this offence? Will any of the learned officials be smacked over their paws for this administrative bungling?

Melita and Blacktown did not seem to worry about the referee's appointment and fire into action early, intent on subduing its opponent from the start.

Melita looked just a fraction sharper, with John Davies, an ex-Blacktown player, in fine form indeed. He was prominent early and one of his shots hit the woodwork after some fine work by McAusland.

And while Melita's efforts were giving Barry Hoare a busy afternoon, at the other end Chris Hummel spent an uneventful Sunday afternoon. The zip has gone out of the Demons and it certainly is not the same side which fired on all cylinders a couple of months



Green Gully 2 WA-Hellas 1

Scorers: Wade 29th, Panagis 40th, Lewis 67th.
Venue: Green Gully Reserve.

Cautions: Hiern, Manou (WA), McGuinness (GG).
Referee: Evan Venios 6.

Bobby McLachlan said after the match that because of the sheer desperation involved in getting the points, the game as a spectacle left a lot to be desired.

He was also unimpressed by some of his players' lack of urgency in the first half. On the other hand, he was pleased that while not playing well, the team gained two points on effort alone.

True enough, this was not a game for the connoisseur. Neither team displayed any imagination or flair, and the small crowd was treated to a rather pedestrian display with highlights at a premium.

The Gully lined up with Fabio Macinelli at left back replacing the suspended David Hoggan, and Macinelli had difficulties adjusting to this new position.

This, coupled with the fact that with the exception of Paul Wade, Gully's midfield did not gain control of the middle of the park, made it hard for front-runners Les Carter and Paul Lewis.

Wade stood out with his great running ability and good use of the ball. He covered every blade of grass of the Gully Reserve and had more contact with the ball than any other player. His fellow midfielders, and indeed most of the Gully players, flashed in and out of the game, lacking consistency.

West Adelaide Hellas had a lot of possession in midfield, particularly in the second half,

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Soper sets up both for Patikas



Man of the Match:
JIM PATIKAS
(Syd. Olympic)

**Syd. Olympic 2
Syd. Croatia 0**

Scorer: Patikas 36th & 44th.
Venue: Prahran Park.
Crowd: 9677.

A goal during injury time in the first half gave Olympic the boost it needed and took the sting out of the Croatian attack. Olympic came close to scor-

ing after 10 minutes when Nick Theodorakopoulos hooked a shot over the bar from close range and brought a good save from Steve Watson in the Croatia goal with a snap shot soon after.

Zeljko Jurin caused the Olympic defence some problems with his clever skills and positional play.

In the 23rd minute Jurin worked the ball down the wing

and crossed to unmarked Bernie Godzik but goalkeeper Gary Meier dived to Godzik's feet to smother the ball.

Olympic charged back when Soccerro fullback Graham Jennings made a defence-splitting run down the left and slipped the ball to Marshall Soper. Soper cut the ball back to Jim Patikas who crashed it into the net with a 20 metres drive.

Sydney Olympic was now controlling the match and its quick ball play was creating many openings in the Croatia defence.

With the first half into injury time, Peter Raskopoulos and Peter Katholos figured in a neat passing movement before a shot at goal by Katholos was deflected to Soper.

Soper again headed the ball

into the path of the speedy Patikas whose shot rifled into the net to register a double for the former national youth team midfielder.

Olympic appeared to relax and played with little urgency in the second half.

This allowed Croatia back into the match but solid defence from Tony Dakos and Gary Phillips contained the opposition forwards.

Hunter back, busy

Man of the Match:
DAVE MCINTOSH
(Penrith)

**Penrith 0
SC-Hakoah 0**

Venue: Cook Park

Sydney Hakoah, reduced to 10 players for the final 25 minutes, held out a determined Penrith to cling to a 0-0 draw at Cook Park.

Hakoah lost International defender Alex Robertson midway through the second half when he was sent off by referee Tim Davies after earlier receiving a yellow card.

Hakoah went into the match as hot favorite, with a five-point lead at the top of the Australian Conference but tight marking and aggressive attacking by Penrith kept them scoreless.

In fact, Penrith had its chances to snatch victory.

The first came in the 28th minute when resubstituted striker Ian Hunter intercepted a pass across the Hakoah backline.

Hunter offloaded to young striker Russell Easthouse but he struck the ball wildly, sending it well wide of the goal.

Hakoah's best chance came in the 59th minute when soccerro striker John Kosmina climbed high but put his header wide.

Five minutes later Robertson was sent from the field after a tackle on Hunter near the sideline.

In the 68th minute, Hunter intercepted a poor back-pass, but he managed only to put the ball straight into goalkeeper Tony Pezzano's arms from an acute angle.

The most clear-cut chance for the Panthers came with just four minutes remaining when Hunter's Pezzano was hit by a low left-foot shot, but Hakoah right-back Jimmy Cant rescued his side from defeat by clearing the ball off the line.

Hakoah coach Eddie Thomson was happy to leave Cook Park with a point and praised Penrith's effort.

Penrith coach Willie Wallace was also pleased, although he said his side could have snatched victory.

"I was pleased with the effort that was put in, and if we take our chances we will definitely be a threat in future games," Wallace said.

Stevenson makes mark, angry Cole taken off

Man of the Match:
MIKE PETERSEN
Heidelberg

Peter Desira

**Heidelberg 2
Makedonia 1**

Scorers: 0-1 Odzakov 5m, 1-1 Winn 8m, 2-1 Winn 17m
Venue: Olympic Village
Referee: Chris Brambridge 7
Cautions: McKie (M), Campbell (M), Lucchesi (PM).

Makedonia president John Branov has ruled out any possibility of Rale Rasic being appointed coach of the club in the immediate future.

Rumors of Rasic's imminent appointment circulated over the weekend and Olympic Village buzzed with reports that Rasic already had been appointed.

"If Rasic is going to be coach, it also means I could be on my way out because it means that people would have been approaching him behind my back," Branov said.

"I have been involved in Makedonia's decision-making process up till now but I know absolutely nothing about this one."

"I'm not saying Rale hasn't got the credentials for the job, but up till now the only decision the committee has made is to give Frank McAleer the chance to look after the team in a caretaker position."

McAleer himself had heard the rumors and asked for a clear-cut statement from Branov on where he (McAleer) stands.

"It's not fair to me, the players and the youth team unless I know exactly where I stand," McAleer said.

"I am prepared to take charge till the end of the season and be judged on that." McAleer can take heart from the renewed commitment the side showed in this game despite the final result.

Makedonia again gave away an early lead through what McAleer termed as "two silly goals" but there was a spirited fightback from the side which did not stop until referee Chris Brambridge's final whistle.

"We didn't deserve to lose. We had a goal disallowed over a dubious offside decision and were denied a clear-cut penalty when George McMillan was brought down in the area late in the second half," McAleer said.

"But when you're down the breaks go against you."

Zarko Odzakov gave Makedonia a perfect start when he latched onto a punched clearance from Jeff Oliver following a cross from the right by George Campbell. Odzakov made no mistake with his final shot, putting the ball out of Oliver's reach after only five minutes of play.

But the lead lasted only three minutes.

Makedonia's defence froze amid claims by Heidelberg for a handball in the area following a cross from Scott Patterson, and Steve Winn took advantage of the lull to control a bad bouncing ball and hammer it into the roof of the net.

Winn, who continues to make a habit of scoring goals in twos and threes, netted what turned out to be the eventual winner in the 17th minute, with a shot from the edge of the box after playing a one-two with Patterson in a move started with a centre from Scottish import Stuart Stevenson.

Stevenson had a lively debut, showing some fine ball control and moving into a number of good scoring positions only to be denied the chance of scoring because of a lack of understanding with the other forwards.

starts working on the same wavelength. Stevenson will prove a valuable addition to Heidelberg's championship challenge.

The architect of Heidelberg's win was midfielder Mike Petersen who complemented his skill on the ball and his excellent distribution with a non-stop running performance.

Heidelberg finished well on top at the end of the first half but was unsettled by the renewed fighting spirit of Makedonia after the break.

Claude Lucchesi appeared to have equalised when he slammed home Odzakov's cross in the 50th minute but linesman Lou Hemmes flagged for offside and immediately had to run onto the field seeking protection from missiles thrown in his direction by irate Makedonia fans.

Police moved onto the running track behind Hemmes before play resumed.

Oliver had to come off his line smartly to block Lucchesi after the striker was put through by a good pass from Con Opatinis.

With the minutes ticking away, McAleer took off Gary Cole and George Campbell and switched George McMillan from midfield to Cole's striking position.

Cole did not take the substitution kindly and gesticulated to the crowd amid jeers as he slowly made his way back to the dressing rooms.

McAleer is undecided about whether to use Cole for this week's game against Adelaide Juventus but the decision may be taken from him as Lucchesi is likely to be out with the maximum penalty points total after being booked in Sunday's game.

McAleer's chance of using George Flavell this week evaporated as the midfielder was sent off for dissent in the youth team game which Makedonia won 2-1 before the main match.

That might mean that Zoran Ilijoski will be used as



Frank McAleer



Stuart Stevenson

sweeper behind Ian Dobson, and Robbie Dunn will have to play in midfield again.

Heidelberg made one significant tactical change in the match, switching Mike Valentine to left back, and Scott Patterson into midfield to allow Paul Tzintzis to come in for John Gabrielson at half time.

Valentine worked well in the position and has the speed to offer himself as an over-lapping fullback if he is retained in the same spot this week, which is likely as Gabrielson has a broken bone in his ankle.



Steve Winn of Heidelberg soars to challenge Makedonia goalkeeper Steve Potter. Below them are, from left: Stuart Stevenson, George Campbell and George McMillan. Picture by LES SHORROCK.

MARCONI HUNGRY FOR SUCCESS



Alex Vesic

Man of the Match:
MARK JANKOVICS
(Marconi)

**Marconi 4
St George 1**

Scorers: Jankovics 16th, Slater 25th, Sharne 35th, McCulloch pen 60th, Henderson 87th.
Venue: Marconi Stadium.
Crowd: 1411.

Referee: P. Rampley 6.
Yellow cards: Henderson, Rizzotto (Marconi), Riccio, Danaskos (St George).

Renato Colusso returned to Marconi stadium but failed to make an appearance in his old club's colors. His new club, Salernitana of Salerno, would not budge and Colusso watched his old team destroy St George from the comfort of the Press box.

After watching Marconi put St George to rest with power-packed play I wonder if Colusso could have done much more.

From the moment Joe Rizzotto raced through the Saints' defence in the seventh minute to face Young, we knew Marconi was intent on giving its crowd value for money despite the absence of Colusso.

Rizzotto looked set to score but his first shot was brilliantly saved by Young. Rizzotto had a second bite of the cherry as the ball bounced back at him, but his left-footer sailed past an empty net.

Mark Jankovics put on one of his best performances yet, with a non-stop performance and a goal which put his side on the road to victory. He was on the spot to pick up a header by Mason, then lob the advancing Young to make it 1-0 in the 16th minute.

Robbie Slater equalised



Mark Jankovics — brilliant performance against St George.

from a neat 1-2 with Andrew Koczka some 10 minutes later and Saints, just for a moment, looked as ready to bounce back. However, Rod Brown ended Saints' hopes after combining with Jankovics to provide Peter Sharne with the easiest of goals to send Marconi with a one-goal lead at half time.

With their tails up, the Marconi players continued to look dangerous in the second period and added further goals through Tommy McCulloch in the 60th and Tony Henderson in the 87th.

In fact McCulloch scored from the spot, as Brown was brought down by Skeen, while Henderson scored one of the best goals yet seen at Marconi stadium. After intercepting a move by St George he raced 30 metres and waltzed past numerous St George players before sending a thunderous left-footer past Young.

And while Marconi and its coach Les Scheinflug celebrated their big win over the champions (it could have been bigger had Sharne and Rizzotto found their mark when

facing Young). I could not help but feel that Saints were not outclassed to the tune of three goals.

Slater in the 62nd and Andy Koczka in the 80th had the easiest of opportunities to beat flames but failed.

Marconi has consolidated its position in the top five and more importantly looks like a side that wants to go places.

Being a regular at Marconi stadium, I can certify that this Marconi outfit is hungry and from here on will take some stopping.

If it's not Lowe, Brown and Sharne, certainly the fastest forward line in Australia, then watch out for Jankovics, McCulloch and Mason.

And to top it all, watch out for those set-plays with Henderson, Jankovics and Calderan inside the area!

As for Saints, it is difficult to assess their strength without Robbie O'Shea, Mark Barton and Dez Marton. Hard as they tried, Danaskos, Riccio and Batten just could not replace their better-known team mates.

Once the striking force

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Xanthopoulos aims to overtake Bedford



Arthur Xanthopoulos (left), marking Charlie George in a SM-Hellas-St. George Budapest match in 1977.



• Top: Xanthopoulos (right) with the Jimmy Mackay Golden Boot award as 1976 under 21 Player of the Year, and Mackay himself. Left: Xanthopoulos (right), marking St. George guest player Francis Lee in 1976.

By LAURIE SCHWAB

Arthur Xanthopoulos, the walking disaster area, is making his second comeback, intent this time on staying around long enough to displace John Bedford in the South Melbourne Hellas history books.

Bedford, who retired some time ago, is Hellas's longest-serving player. Xanthopoulos, who broke into the senior team in 1972, is in second place, and Kris Kalifatidis ranks third.

Xanthopoulos, 28, was brought into the Hellas team by coach Manny Poulakakis as a midfielder, but went to centre-back when Bedford dropped out due to injury. Bedford returned, and Xanthopoulos found himself on the bench until he won a regular position in the team.

He served Hellas continuously until 1978 when a knee operation put him out of the game for two years. As a result of the operation, he contracted arthritis which is troubling him at the moment because his knee has been inactive during his latest lay-off. This time a groin injury has been the cause, and he's only just returned to active duty, with the Hellas youth team, after missing the first half of the season.

"I'm just a bag of bones," he jokes about his injuries.

"This one has been a perplexing injury. It was the same one John Vzendorn had. At first the doctors recommended an operation, but then I spoke to Gary Wilson of Fitzroy VFL club, who had a similar injury, and he put me onto Fitzroy's doctor, who said it would clear up with rest. It did clear up, before the scheduled date for an operation, but I came back too early, and I had trouble again. Now it's 100 per cent — finally.

Xanthopoulos played six games for Victoria — against South Australia, Tottenham Hotspur, Bologna, the Italian Army, Atromitos and Velez Mostar in 1976 — but wrecked his chances of an international career by failing to turn up when selected to play for Australia against Hong Kong in Canberra that year.

He explains: "I had been chosen in the squad for a game against Sunderland. I didn't get a run and afterwards I was dropped again. I thought it was just a token gesture to Victoria, to save on the air fare for a Sydney player.

"The coach, Jim Shoulder, didn't say anything to me about my future with the national squad. Then, for the Hong Kong match, some of the Sydney players were unavailable because of club commitments, so Duncan Cummings, Mendo Risovski and I were picked for the match. I knew I was only a stop-gap player and that I'd be dropped again afterwards, so I just didn't go.

"I know I made a mistake. Shoulder was disappointed, and he had a right to be. I should have been more sensible and more patient."

Xanthopoulos started with the Hellas juniors at the relatively old age of 14.

The son of former Heidelberg player Con Xanthopoulos, Arthur had been playing in the park opposite his home with his dad and other former players since he could kick a ball. "It was not just mucking around, either," he recalls. "It was serious business. Apart from the older fellows, we also had Nick Rakovalis who was captain of Heidelberg at the time, and Alex Nelson, the Heidelberg defender."

Arthur's cousin Theo Selemidis (his mother Sophie and Con are sister and brother) also played a few of those games in the park. "But he was only a little bloke — about eight at the time, and he didn't get much of a run. He was very short for his age. I'm really happy for him now. He's captain of Heidelberg, and he's playing for Australia, which is great."

STARS STATE

By ALEX

Below is my choice of the players, in positions, half-a-good measure, I've also chosen

IAN BAR (Polonia)

MICK KELLY (Auburn) TERRY BERTRAM (Ku-Ring-gai)

TOM STEVEN (Manly) WALTER (Inter M)

TONY BRENNAN (Inter Monaro) ROSS B (Rock)

Team

DAVID ID (Bankers)

MITCH HESFORD (Sutherland) PAUL OGDENY (Rockdale)

GEORGE AKOUTAS (Auburn) ANGELO AM (Inter M)

HENJEC SOBCHYK (Polonia) MARK BK (Ma)

Team

MICHAEL H (Inter Mo)

BOBBY PAGANO (Manly) LEIGH WATSON (Ku-Ring-Gai)

MARK HARRINGTON (Sutherland) NIGEL G (Suth)

A. MONTEROSSO (Inter Monaro) GARY (An)



Giampaolo



Jones



Grooms

Moore, Cassar click but Dunn

By CRAIG MACKENZIE

When Bobby McLachlan coached Green Gully in 1981, he didn't think his team was as good as Melbourne Croatia and wouldn't be drawn into comment about Gully's title chances.

Green Gully won the Victorian State League championship by six points in 1981. It also won the Dockerty and Ampol Cups that year.

So when Morwell Falcons' coach Jimmy Dunne says his team isn't quite as good as Polonia right now and refuses to talk about Falcons winning the title, other title contenders had better watch out!

Dunne played for Gully under McLachlan in 1980. It was the start of Gully's surge to glory. After finishing third-last in State League the previous season, Gully finished third in 1980 and Dunne won the Bill Fleming Medal.

The next season, McLachlan used the \$10,000 Gully received for Dunne's transfer to Brisbane City to revamp the Gully first team squad and while Gully stayed at the top of the Victorian tree in 1981 and 1982, Dunne's career came to a violent end.

He broke his leg while playing against Footscray J.U.S.T. at Schintler Reserve in an NSL match, in April, 1982.

"If I'd finished that season okay I'd probably have looked around for a player-coaching job anyway. The one thing that made me bitter about the in-

cident was that no-one from Footscray J.U.S.T. came to visit me. I was in Footscray hospital for 13 days. The player who broke my leg never even phoned to ask how I was getting on," said Dunne.

It was the end of a star-studded playing career. Dunne was signed by English club Millwall as a 16-year-old, switched to Torquay United in 1980, then was signed by Fulham for \$34,000 in 1970. Five years later he spent a season in South Africa with Durban City, then rejoined Fulham. He returned to Torquay in the latter half of the 1970's before joining Green Gully in 1980.

Dunne made two appearances for the Republic of Ireland, one in a full international. He also won youth caps for Ireland.

After getting over the broken leg I returned to Torquay and there wasn't much happening coaching-wise there. I had thoughts about going to the U.S. or to Canada when the Morwell thing cropped up late last year. Actually I was trying to get players for Green Gully and Morwell at the time. Wally Dean, the team manager at Morwell, was talking to me on the phone and I said to him to keep



Jimmy Dunne, (left), now coach of Morwell Falcons, celebrates his 1980 Bill Fleming Medal win, with Green Gully coach Bobby McLachlan (centre) and team-mate Billy Vojtek, a previous Fleming Medal winner.

his eyes and ears open for any coaching jobs in Australia. Not long after that conversation he phoned me and asked me to send a letter with all my career details to him and in the end Morwell offered me the coaching job.

"I paid my own air fare and flew over here for two days to look at the set-up. I liked what I saw. The facilities were good and

was the pitch, and I knew some of the players. I didn't want to haggle too much over things. I agreed terms and went back home to get the move fixed up."

Dunne is married and has a 13-year-old son, Nicholas, and a six-year-old daughter, Tracey. Settling in Morwell hasn't been easy. Tracey has developed asthma. Dunne puts it down to "the smog. It's a highly industrialised area."

And Dunne's had teething problems with the team. Understandably so, for this is his first coaching job.

"When I took over at Morwell everyone was throwing player names at me left, right and centre. I'm prepared to listen because I'm learning as a coach but in the end, you've got to make up your own mind about who you should or shouldn't sign

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Morwell F. 2 Box Hill 2

Scores: Moore penalty 29th, penalty 59th (MF); Smith 17th, 79th (Box Hill).
Venue: North Cringian Reserve.

Jimmy Dunne and Bill Murray are light years apart in the views they hold about football.

Dunne, commenting on Morwell creating the clearer-cut chances in the second half, thought that his side was unlucky not to win. Murray, probably looking at Box Hill's possession and use of the ball, and overall team discipline, would be quite content to play Morwell Falcons every week.

My opinion falls somewhere between these diverse viewpoints. I felt that Morwell's Russell Athersch really blew a great chance to decide this match at a crucial stage of the second half. I also felt that Box Hill's tremendous character stood out, for I thought the

Hillmen were gone when Morwell took a 2-1 lead but Murray's young men powered their way back into the match and almost snatched a win thanks to a had passback from Jim Train, the Morwell left back. However, Box Hill's Brian Keenan was just beaten to the ball by Morwell goalie Bill Whitehead.

God knows what Dunne would have said to his players after the game, had Keenan scored what clearly would have been the winner. The effect of Dunne's half time speech at best can be likened to a mild earth tremor. Morwell's dressing room backs onto the club's V.I.P. room. Being a very insignificant person I, of course, was in the V.I.P. room, witnessing the curious phenomenon of glasses rattling, ashtrays clinking to-

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Northcote's attacking flair should prove too much for Broadmeadows at Laura Douglas Reserve, while Billy McIntyre's Albion Rovers, the most improved performers in the league can get a point when they travel to Monterey Boulevard to take on Frankston Pines.

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RINGWOOD WILHELMINA: Lee 7 — Corke 6, Haupt 7, Murray 5, Verniers 7 — Kebede 6, Storm 8, Burton 7 — Warszawa 8, Wondimu 7, Stewart 8. Coach: Cor Teuw.

DEVONTO: Radov 3 — Dwyer 3, Gadeby 3, Lowe 3, Fitzpatrick 3 — A. Douglas 5, Buchanan 8, G. McLeod 3 (Lalates 60th), Edmondson 3 — Holmes 3, J. McDonald 3. Coach: Ian Williamson.

Best three for Schipano Player of the Year award: 3. Warszawa (RW), 2. Buchanan (Doves), 1. Storm (RW).

FAWKNER 5 (Czozella 31st, 55th, Tuffield 41st, 65th, Palinkas 80th) KNOX CITY 1 (Bissinger 70th) at Smith Reserve, Sunday.

FAWKNER: Costa 7 — Macleod 8, Fattore 7, Cavallari 7, McKinley 7 (Inj. Patricios 60th) — Palinkas 8, Brennan 7, Angell 7, Cozzella 8 (Inj. Giacalone 80th), Tuffield 8, Garvey 8. Coach: Gus Macleod.

KNOX CITY: Brian 6 — Dixon 5, Bissinger 5, Murray 5, Roddis 5 — Smith 5, Bryden 5 (Owen 75th), Masters 6, Lesbille 5 — Kojic 5 (Wild 60th), House 5. Coach: Eric Lesbille.

Best three for Schipano Player of the Year award: 3. Tuffield (Fawk), 2. Palinkas (Fawk), 1. Cozzella (Fawk).

NORTHCO 5 (Micevski 2nd, 35th, 47th, Dionisopoulos 7th, 85th) ST ALBANS DINAMO 1 (Morovic penalty 60th) at John Cain Reserve, Sunday.

NORTHCO: Gianopoulos 7 — Wilson 7 (Inj. Bekiaris 60th) Kettas 7th, Bozakis 7, Mihos 8 — Wright 7, Quigley 8, Toro 7 (Patricios 70th) — Dionisopoulos 8, Micevski 9, Constantinou 7. Coach: Jimmy Pyrgos.

ST ALBANS DINAMO: Debeljuch 6 — Mecanovic 5, Bozic 6, Radman 5 (Inj. Dula 70th), Jurisic 5 — Dezic 5 (Nobilo 75th), Brkalic 6, Culina 7 — Bruno 5, Morovic 5, Batonicovic 5. Coach: Pero Kasala.

Best three for Schipano Player of the Year award: 3. Micevski (North), 2. Mihos (North), 1. Quigley (North).

CRYODON 2 (Loughane 18th, French 74th) FRANKSTON PINES 2 (Cumming 50th, Thomas 89th) at Croydon Park, Sunday.

CRYODON: Kastner 7 — Rainey 7, Kerr 8, Brewerton 7, Brown 6 — Ormond 6, French 7, Lucio Salsi 6 (Killey 82nd) — Irvine 6 (Singleton 48th), Loughane 7, Griffiths 7. Coach: Colin Hasler.

FRANKSTON PINES: Stuchbury 7 — Wilson 7, Thurlow 8, Cumming 8, Beek 6 — Ferris 6 (Thomas), Ross 7, Cullen 7, Luca 6 — Dick 7, Bruce 8. Coach: Danny McKeown.

Best three for Schipano Player of the Year award: 3. Brown (Croy), 2. Kerr (Croy), 1. Cumming (Pines).

MacLean put him through but Athersch's chip sailed over both McKinlay and the bar.

Brian Keenan hit a piledriver from 20 metres in the 73rd minute, sending the ball whistling past the far post. Six minutes later scores were level.

Keenan was at the far post as the ball was knocked over low from the left. He seemed to have lost his chance by not shooting first time and Whitehead charged off his line to close Keenan down. The ball ran to Smith, about 15 metres out. He took one touch to tie it up. His second touch sent it screeching into the roof of the Morwell net.



Buffalo State League Ladder

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FAWKNER.....	11	3	2	42	21	25
MORWELL F.....	9	6	1	29	10	24
POLONIA.....	9	5	2	37	19	23
BOX HILL.....	8	7	1	29	16	23
West Subs.....	7	4	5	30	29	18
Albion R.....	6	5	5	16	19	17
Croydon.....	7	2	7	19	22	16
Northcote.....	7	1	8	34	26	15
F'ston Pines.....	4	6	6	18	23	14
Wilhelmina.....	3	6	7	23	27	12
Knox City.....	4	4	8	22	37	12
St Albans.....	2	6	8	19	32	10
Devon.....	2	4	10	14	28	8
Broadmeadows.....	3	1	12	11	34	7

ALBION ROVERS 3 (Robertson 5th, 25th, Croyle 75th) BROADMEADOWS 1 (Vaccaro 44th) at Selwyn Park, Saturday.

ALBION ROVERS: Cipri 7 — Galea 7, D'Sylva 9, Gilmour 7, Douglas 8 — Purcell 8, Reilly 8, Alfonso 7 — Spiteri (Inj. McCormow 15th), 7, Bouzas 7, Robertson 7. Coach: Billy McIntyre.

BROADMEADOWS: Grech 6 — Smart 6, Ellis 6, Donaldson 6, Desa 6 — Watson 6, Horlikin 6, Stoikos 6 (Habic 65th) — Liberto 6 (Campbell 75th), Blair 7, Vaccaro 6, Coach: Jim McIntyre.

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MORWELL FALCONS: Whiteside 6 — Higham 7, Bruns 6, Clarke 8, Train 7 — O'Callaghan 6, Moore 6, MacLean 7, Casser 7 (Thompson 75th) — Stirling 7, Athersch 7. Coach: Jimmy Dunne.

BOX HILL: McKinlay 5 — R. Loughane 6, Brooks 7, Hennessy 8, A. Roodhouse 7 — Priestley 6, Hughes 8, Valentine 7, Keenan 7 — Verechla 7, Smith 7. Coach: Bill Murray.

Best three for Schipano Player of the Year award: 3. Clarke (MF), 2. Hughes (Box Hill), 1. Smith (Box Hill).

WESTERN SUBURBS 2 (Lazopoulos 37th, Coyle 38th) POLONIA 1 (Mitten penalty 39th) at Ralph Reserve, Sunday.

WESTERN SUBURBS: Hunter 8 — Hamill 7, Dimovski 6, Howe 8, Lakkas 6 — Stenson 9, Kakantonis 6, Esposito 7, Mussel 7 — Lazopoulos 7, Coyle 8. Coach: Jimmy Condlis.

POLONIA: Fryzser 6 — Liparski 7, McCluskey 7, Gardiner 8, A. Czapiuk 7 — Petrov 5, Innes 5, Avian 5, Tront 5 — Mitten 7, Glider 6. Coach: John Gardiner.

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SCHIPANO AWARD
Schipano Home Furnishers are the sponsors of our 1984 State League Player of the Year award.

The winner receives \$1,000 worth of furniture of his choice. Voting is on a 3-2-1 basis for each State League game. In the event of a tie, the player making the least number of appearances will be declared the winner.

- Leading voters get:
- 1 — Smith (Box Hill).
 - 2 — MacLean (Morw).
 - 3 — Stenson (WS).
 - 4 — Tuffield (Fawk).
 - 5 — Tuffield (Fawk).
 - 6 — R. Loughane (Box Hill).
 - 7 — Culina (St. A).
 - 8 — Bingham (Morw), Quigley (North), Milla (Pol), Lazopoulos (WS).
 - 9 — Burton (Wilhel).
 - 10 — Palinkas (Fawk), House (Knox), Moore (Morw).

VSF Travel Club award
The VSF Travel Club, in conjunction with Ametco Travel, is sponsoring our 1984 State League Top Scorer award.

The winner receives a return trip to Singapore, flying Thai International.

- Leading scorers:
- 1 — Smith (Box Hill), Przybyla (Pol), Tuffield (Fawk).
 - 2 — Cozzella (Fawk), Moore (Morw).
 - 3 — Coyle (WS).
 - 4 — House (Knox), Mitten (Pol), Morovic (St. A.), Lazopoulos (WS).

Dunne, Murray at odds

By CRAIG MACKENZIE

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Northcote's attacking flair should prove too much for Broadmeadows at Laura Douglas Reserve, while Billy McIntyre's Albion Rovers, the most improved performers in the league can get a point when they travel to Monterey Boulevard to take on Frankston Pines.

Best three for Schipano Player of the Year award: 3. Stenson (WS), 2. Gardner (Pol), 1. Hunter (WS).

RINGWOOD WILHELMINA 4 (Stewart 52nd, 75th, Wondimu 56th, Warszawa 87th) DEVONTO 1 (Buchanan 3rd) at Jubilee Park, Sunday.

RINGWOOD WILHELMINA: Lee 7 — Corke 6, Haupt 7, Murray 5, Verniers 7 — Kebede 6, Storm 8, Burton 7 — Warszawa 8, Wondimu 7, Stewart 8. Coach: Cor Teuw.

DEVONTO: Radov 3 — Dwyer 3, Gadeby 3, Lowe 3, Fitzpatrick 3 — A. Douglas 5, Buchanan 8, G. McLeod 3 (Lalates 60th), Edmondson 3 — Holmes 3, J. McDonald 3. Coach: Ian Williamson.

Best three for Schipano Player of the Year award: 3. Warszawa (RW), 2. Buchanan (Doves), 1. Storm (RW).

FAWKNER 5 (Czozella 31st, 55th, Tuffield 41st, 65th, Palinkas 80th) KNOX CITY 1 (Bissinger 70th) at Smith Reserve, Sunday.

FAWKNER: Costa 7 — Macleod 8, Fattore 7, Cavallari 7, McKinley 7 (Inj. Patricios 60th) — Palinkas 8, Brennan 7, Angell 7, Cozzella 8 (Inj. Giacalone 80th), Tuffield 8, Garvey 8. Coach: Gus Macleod.

KNOX CITY: Brian 6 — Dixon 5, Bissinger 5, Murray 5, Roddis 5 — Smith 5, Bryden 5 (Owen 75th), Masters 6, Lesbille 5 — Kojic 5 (Wild 60th), House 5. Coach: Eric Lesbille.

Best three for Schipano Player of the Year award: 3. Tuffield (Fawk), 2. Palinkas (Fawk), 1. Cozzella (Fawk).

NORTHCO 5 (Micevski 2nd, 35th, 47th, Dionisopoulos 7th, 85th) ST ALBANS DINAMO 1 (Morovic penalty 60th) at John Cain Reserve, Sunday.

NORTHCO: Gianopoulos 7 — Wilson 7 (Inj. Bekiaris 60th) Kettas 7th, Bozakis 7, Mihos 8 — Wright 7, Quigley 8, Toro 7 (Patricios 70th) — Dionisopoulos 8, Micevski 9, Constantinou 7. Coach: Jimmy Pyrgos.

ST ALBANS DINAMO: Debeljuch 6 — Mecanovic 5, Bozic 6, Radman 5 (Inj. Dula 70th), Jurisic 5 — Dezic 5 (Nobilo 75th), Brkalic 6, Culina 7 — Bruno 5, Morovic 5, Batonicovic 5. Coach: Pero Kasala.

Best three for Schipano Player of the Year award: 3. Micevski (North), 2. Mihos (North), 1. Quigley (North).

CRYODON 2 (Loughane 18th, French 74th) FRANKSTON PINES 2 (Cumming 50th, Thomas 89th) at Croydon Park, Sunday.

CRYODON: Kastner 7 — Rainey 7, Kerr 8, Brewerton 7, Brown 6 — Ormond 6, French 7, Lucio Salsi 6 (Killey 82nd) — Irvine 6 (Singleton 48th), Loughane 7, Griffiths 7. Coach: Colin Hasler.

FRANKSTON PINES: Stuchbury 7 — Wilson 7, Thurlow 8, Cumming 8, Beek 6 — Ferris 6 (Thomas), Ross 7, Cullen 7, Luca 6 — Dick 7, Bruce 8. Coach: Danny McKeown.

Best three for Schipano Player of the Year award: 3. Brown (Croy), 2. Kerr (Croy), 1. Cumming (Pines).

Soccer House Hillmen's main hurdle

By CRAIG MACKENZIE

Box Hill found out last Friday, the day before its crucial away game against Morwell Falcons, that stopper Don Brownlie was suspended. Murray already had settled on his starting line-up when news

of Brownlie's suspension arrived from Soccer House.

Brownlie in fact had accumulated 12 penalty points well before last week, yet played on as he waited for Soccer House to inform Box

Hill of his automatic one-week suspension.

Well, even if Soccer House makes things hard this week, I'm still tipping Box Hill to beat Croydon. Nevertheless, Croydon is in for a good second half of the season, but I doubt that it has the tremendous spirit and discipline of the Box Hill side. And in Steve Smith, the Hillmen have one of the best finishers in the league. Ask Morwell fans if you don't believe me.

Fawkner should retain top spot by beating St Albans Dinamo at Churchill Reserve on Saturday. Ian Tuffield and Bruno Cozzella not only are staging a fierce battle of club scoring honours they also are vying for the title of leading league marksman. They bagged two goals each last week against Knox and Dinamo's young central defenders, Mate Bozic and George Radman, will have to turn in outstanding displays here to hold the Fawkner pair.

I've yet to see Ringwood Wilhelmina's Dutch import, Kees Storm, in action. I'm told that he's a player. If so, saving two players of outstanding quality on show at Raleigh Reserve this Sunday, should bring a few extra fans through the gate, for Polonia's Stefan Mila surely will be in action after a one-week suspension. Polonia must win to keep in touch with the leading title contenders.

Early Paolozza goal downs Nunawading

NUNAWADING CITY OF WERRIBEE 1 (Paolozza 13th) at Mahoneys Reserve, Saturday.

NUNAWADING CITY: P. Farnham, J. Groenewald, R. West, S. Fuzer, S. Deane, S. Sullivan, M. Bakker, J. Hyatt, M. Jones 84th, P. Mullett, N. Van Edmond, P. McCarthy (R. Akdeniz 68th).

WERRIBEE: J. Seneviera, R. Di Girolandino, L. Antwi, R. Kilpatrick, S. Italla, R. Plassa, L. Calderwood, J. McNally, R. Deletroy, T. Penzance, L. Murphy 68th, J. Falcon (N. Iannozzo 64th).

A 13th minute goal by young Paolozza was enough to give Werribee two vital points in an uninspiring match on Saturday.

Although Nunawading had most of the play territorially, and played some

State League ladder

ROCKDALE	10	4	2	32	15	24
INTER MONARO	9	5	2	48	21	23
MANLY WARR	7	7	2	27	10	21
SUTHERLAND	8	5	3	25	13	21
Auburn	6	6	4	14	13	18
Canterbury	5	5	6	17	28	15
Ku-Ring-Gai	4	6	6	20	26	14
Polonia	4	5	7	14	22	13
Avala	4	5	7	23	33	13
Yugal	3	5	8	24	24	11
Warringah Narabeen	3	4	9	17	31	10
Bankstown	2	5	9	14	38	9

THIS WEEK

Saturday: At Cromer Park Manly v. Narabeen.
Sunday: At Knight Park — AVALA v. POLONIA; At Mona Park — AUBURN v. KU-RING-GAI; At Hurstville Oval — ROCKDALE v. SUTHERLAND; At Marco Polo — INTER v. YUGAL; At Potts Park — BANKSTOWN v. CANTERBURY.

POLONIA 1 (Nowak 33rd) MANLY WARRINGAH 0 at Chopin Park.

POLONIA: Barker 8. — Jordan 7, Fogarty 7, Galias 7, Pratt 6, — Nowak 7, Vanderberg 8, Kowalczyk 7, Ovcarek 7 (Juchniewicz 80th), Lumsdaine 5, Sobczyk 6.

MANLY: Cassettari 6. — Pagano 6, Dick 7, Doyle 7, Lynch 5, — McGreen 6, Steven 8, Jones 7. — Fox 5, Leak 7, Stuart 6.

WARRINGAH NARABEEN 0 INTER MONARO 2 (Valeri 38th, Brennan 50th) at Narabeen Sports Centre.

WARRINGAH NARABEEN: P. Dean 8. — Sone 7, Rylands 8, Garrett 7, Mahoney 7, Collings 6 (Irvine 70th). — A. Dean 6, Jack 6 (INTER 46th-7), Bullock 7. — Rimmer 6, McLean 6.

INTER MONARO: Hocking 9. — Domazetovic 7, Santolin 6, Ambrosio 7, Williams 5 (Frances 68th). — Wilcox 6, Farrell 8, Valeri 7. — Monterosso 6 (Wilke 70th), Brennan 7, GiamPaolo 7.

SUTHERLAND 1 (Rogers) AUBURN 0 at Seymour Shaw Park.

SUTHERLAND: Dart 7. — Hasford 7, Schumann 8, Dallomo 8, Nelson 7. — Webber 8, Rogers 7, Stoddart 7, Groome 7. — Gray 5 (Conner 46th). — Hargraves.

AUBURN: Rosano 8. — Kelly 6, Watt 7, Planinic 6, Geekie 7. — Akoutas 8, Caraney 6, Parfitt 5, Townsend 6. — Knight 7, O'Shana 6 (Benales 68th).

WARRINGAH NARABEEN 1 (Griffin 55th) MANLY WARRINGAH 1 (Stuart 25th) at Narabeen.

NARABEEN: Dean 8. — Sone 8, Mahoney 7, Rylands 7, Garrett 6 (sent off 56th), Hanley 7. — Dean 6, Griffin 8, Bullock 7, Rimmer 7. — McLean 6.

MANLY: Cassettari 7. — Pagano 6, Dick 7, Doyle 7, Williamson 7. — McGreen 5, Steven 6, Jones 7. — Fox 5. — Barker 55th, Panes 5, Stuart 7.

ROCKDALE ILINDEN 3 (Trajanovski 12th, Degney 20th, Brown 24th Pen) CANTERBURY 1 (Titlis 56th) at Arlington Oval.

ROCKDALE: Kotzohambos 7 (75th Laris). — Degney 7 (sent off 60th), Pilovski 7, D. Wilson 7, G. Wilson 7. — Slavski 7, Nasteviski 6, Jones 6. — Trajanovski 6, Brown 7, Karanfilovski 6 (Risteviski 78th).

CANTERBURY: Konistis 6. — Antonopoulos 6, Efthimides 7, Titlis 7, Mikovic 8 (Laws 56th — 7). — Anagnostopoulos 6, Hall 8, Petas 7. — Dounis 5, Andreou 5.

AVALA 1 (Budini 82nd) KU-RING-GAI 0 at Parklands Oval.

AVALA: Thurlow 8. — Harris 7, Budini 8, Mackenzie 6, Da Silva 5 (Mackenzie 8, 80th). — Duvnjak 8, Williams 8, Kodor 6. — Rodriguez 6 (Stamenkovic 87th), Bonic 7, Milne 6.

KU-RING-GAI: Prentice 7, Bertram 8, Watson 9, Jesse 7. — Harper 78, Bonic 7, Williamson 7, Tracey 6, & Jeffery 5, Bass 5.

YUGAL 6 (Jesic 5th, 36th, 67th, 80th, Zivkovic 2nd, Thamnides 47th) BANKSTOWN 1 (Kennedy 10th) at Fraser Park.

YUGAL: Berry 7. — Marco 7 (Tomasich 46th — 7), Forester 8, J. Clarke 8, Glosion 6. — Pahor 7 (P. Clarke 78th), Jesic 10, Zivkovic 8. — Rodas 8, Thamnides 8, Tanovski 8.

BANKSTOWN: Lohman 8. — Kennedy 5, Blackburn 6, Cootes 6, Agostino 5. — Meerbanli 7, Hammoud 5, Genc 5. — Housseini 5, Parker 7, Hassan 5.

Paul Degney sent off, Bankstown hit for six

Rockdale and Inter Monaro have opened up a nice gap after last weekend's matches with Inter Monaro collecting a two pointer at the expense of Narabeen, while Rockdale subdued Canterbury. Manly lost three out of a possible four points over the weekend and has slipped behind in the title race.

Mark Holloway and Steve Leak are on the injured list, while other players are performing well below standard.

Sutherland defeated Auburn at Seymour Shaw Park but still has a huge problem in the goalkeeping department. As for Auburn, with only one recognized attacker the side is doing well to keep in touch with the leaders.

Ku-Ring-Gai, after some fine performances in recent weeks, stumbled at Parklands Oval against Avala, while Canterbury was very lucky to lose by only two goals against Rockdale.

Polonia 1 Manly 0

Score: Wojtek Nowak 33rd.

Venue: Chopin Park. Wojtek Nowak and Rick Vanderberg were the home side's stars as Polonia defeated Manly at Chopin Park by the narrowest of margins.

Nowak, a polished, Polish midfielder, scored the winner with a 30 metre shot which deceived Chris Cassettari to give Polonia its first half lead.

While Rick Vanderberg, only 17, played his best game of the year to blot out Manly's Tom Steven.

Richard Alagich, Manly's coach, made no bones about the unexpected loss.

"I felt we had most of the play and the chances but it is hard to get the points without the goals. We played well enough and I couldn't be too critical of my players, but it is difficult to comprehend those misses from right in front," he said.

And while Manly will rue its misses, Polonia must feel a much more confident outfit following its win. Henjek Ovcarek is back, Kowalczyk, Nowak and Sobczyk are putting in a far better effort, while Ian Barker in goal is

always worth a point to the red and whites. And its centre back combination of Galas and Fogarty is among the best in the league.

Warringah 0 Inter Monaro 2

Score: Valeri 38th, Brennan 90th.

Venue: Narabeen Sports Centre.

It was difficult not to feel sorry for the home side after it felt full of its own inadequacies in the goal scoring department and lost the match which could so easily have gone the other way.

Time and again during the second period Narabeen split this Inter Monaro side to create an opening only to waste it just as quickly.

Griffin, Rimmer and Mahoney had the simplest of headers to give Narabeen an equaliser during this period but managed to head over the bar from no further out than five metres.

In the 38th minute it was the simplest of moves by Inter with Valeri and Giampaolo playing a neat one-two which saw Valeri slot his shot past Dean to make it 1-0.

After an unusual turnaround during the second period and Narabeen missing its last minute chance to equalise, the ball was cleared upfield to Tony Brennan who wasted no time in lobbing the advancing keeper to make it 2-0.

Sutherland 1 Auburn 0

Score: Rogers 8th.

Venue: Seymour Shaw.

The battle for the top four continued at Seymour Shaw in earnest. Sutherland, eager to avenge its first round defeat at the hands of Auburn managed to do just that and won by the narrowest of margins.

Craig Rogers was at the end of a fine move by Stoddart and



NSW State League with ALEX VESIC

Gray to hook one home from 16 metres. It was the second goal of the season for the youngster and he won't score a more important goal all year.

Sutherland now has moved into fourth spot, three points away from Auburn and only three away from the top team Rockdale.

While most celebrated at Sutherland, Nigel Groome must be dreaming about a man called Rosano, for the Auburn keeper saved Groome's penalty in the 26th minute.

Auburn wasn't without its chances and could easily have snatched at least a point. O'Shana missed an opportunity after only four minutes after Ray Carney and Chris Townson provided the spade work.

David Watt's shot was cleared off the line after 10 minutes, then it was O'Shana again minutes after the restart.

Sieve Knight found O'Shana with a well placed free kick but the busy striker fired over the bar.

For Sutherland, Hargraves and Rogers missed opportunities in the 34th and 64th, but in the end it mattered little to the final scoreline.

Narrabeen 1 Manly 1

Score: Griffin 55th, Stuart 25th.

Venue: Narrabeen Sports Centre.

Much was said about the two sides from the North of the Harbour. Manly, at one stage the runaway league leader looked set to take the title until a spate of injuries disrupted its rhythm.

Manly failed to deliver the goods last Sunday, but one must take into account that Holloway and Leak were not in the side and without those two it is hard to score goals.

In fact, it was an even game with Manly taking the lead during the first period after Dudley Fox provided the cross for Robbie Stuart to score. Narrabeen equalised

through Greg Griffin soon after the start of the second period and the sides stayed locked at 1-1.

Manly failed to capitalise after Garrett was sent off for retaliating against Simon Panes.

Canterbury 1 Rockdale 3

Score: Trajanovski 12th, Df Degney 20th, Brown Pen. 24th, Titlis 56th.

Venue: Arlington Oval.

Ilinden raced into an early lead through Trajanovski following a fine move by Rockdale, then added another through Paul Degney after 20 minutes.

Ken Slavski provided the pass and Degney scored with a shot from an acute angle.

When Titlis handled inside his own area and Ross Brown scored number three after 24 minutes the home team looked set for a hammering.

But it wasn't to be. Rockdale continued to dominate, even after the sending off of Paul Degney but just could not put the ball in the net.

At times Ilinden players had the goal at their mercy with Konistis stranded but still couldn't score.

In the end, Titlis scrambled one back from a goalmouth melee to make the score respectable.

Hija Takac, Ilinden's coach, was furious about Degney's dismissal.

It will be interesting to see what happens at the judiciary. Degney, sent off for the first time in his career will face Don Morrison and Roger Dewick, two of his early mentors at Sutherland.

Ku-Ring-Gai 0 Avala 1

Score: Budini 82nd.

Venue: Parklands Oval.

In an evenly fought game at Parklands, Avala got the nod with a late goal by Ricky Budini.

Nikola Duvnjak took a free kick, floating the ball to the far post for Budini to head past

Andrew Prentice and give Avala its first two pointer since round 10. It was fitting that Duvnjak was involved in the goal for he was the best player on the park and an inspiration to his team mates.

Ku-Ring-Gai battled hard and had chances to score during both periods but failed to come to terms with this bumpy surface. The home side looked the better team during the opening period and had Thurlow on the ropes. Andy Tracey, Neale Williamson and Craig Bass shot just wide during this period, with Bertram heading one just over the bar.

Avala came back during the second period and had its own share of chances before Budini's decider.

Yugal 6 Bankstown 1

Score: Jesic 5th, 36th, 67th, 80th, Zivkovic 2nd, Thamnides 47th, Kennedy 10th.

Venue: Fraser Park.

Bankstown was hammered at Fraser Park and looks doomed to the lower grade competition next season. It is hard to see how the club will pick up points in the last six rounds with Inter Monaro, Manly, Auburn and Rockdale among its opponents.

In fact, it is hard to imagine Bankstown taking points from anyone the way the side is playing at the moment.

Yugal ran rings around Bankstown scoring three goals in each half and missing a penalty in the process. Had the dark blues scored from all available chances David Lohman would have been a sorry figure at the end of the match.

Kudovan Jesic was the star, helping himself to four goals. Lyubo Zivkovic and Chris Thamnides added the other two while Eddie Panhor's penalty was saved by Lohman.

Panhor was immediately replaced by Peter Clarke and seconds later Jesic made it 6-1 from a build up by Clarke!

Yugal has scored 10 goals in two matches and Inter Monaro will have its work cut out against this in-form side at Queenbeyan this week.



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Fawkner's stars of the future

Fawkner not only leads the Victorian State League, it also has some of the most exciting juniors in the state in its ranks. Here, photographer LES SHORROCK introduces the young stars of Fawkner's 10 junior teams. Many of these lads will be senior Fawkner stars of tomorrow.



● Michael Barba, of Fawkner and Victoria. This 13-year-old goalie has let in just four goals in 13 games this season and has represented Victoria for the past two years.



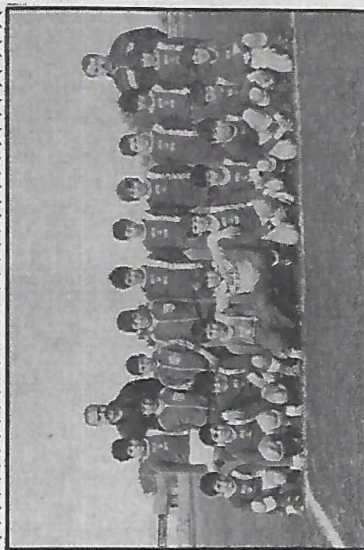
● Under 9's, sponsored by Frank Z Hardware and Eserjay Windows: Nicoletti Salvatore, Fabian Zuncheddu, Enzo Pamparella, Joseph Crbac, Frank Savini, Rickey Impala, Mark Recchia, Claudio Petrucci, Ricky Ferla, Marco Mercuri, Sandy Emanuele, Mathew Card, Gregory Cook, Fabrizio Ferrante, Anthony Musarra. Coach: C. Pamparella; manager: R. Vecchia.



● Fawkner under 12's sponsored by Gino Carmignani & Sons: P. Babere, B. Berto, J. Gouls, V. Ferrante, F. Olivieri, P. Mahenti, S. Stromhecker, J. Merlo, M. Torantora, L. Dibenedetto, D. D'Angelo, C. Gbac, C. Vetere, D. Dematteo. Coach: A. Ferrante, team manager: A. Torantora.



● Under 14's, sponsored by Kyneton Mineral Water and Carl Graffeo, Frank Varalla, David Chiappa, Marco Tucci, Pietro Pavan, Sandro Constabile, Matteo Marucci, Fank Venditti, Roger Strohhecker, Fabio Petrinca, Marko Risteviski, Michael Vesnyak, Antonio C. Ricenti, Francesco Lizio, Giovanni Ambrosini, Damiano Vellucci. Coach: Giuseppe Marucci; team manager: Germano Strohhecker.



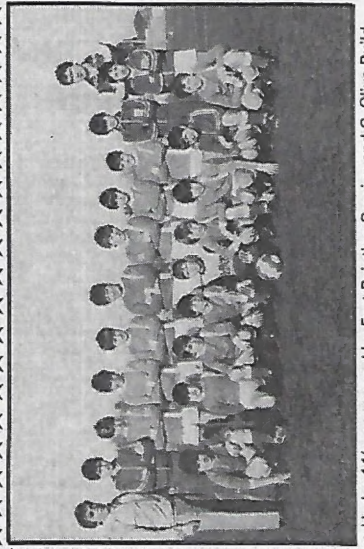
● Under 10's, sponsored by Carl Graffeo and Coffex: A. West, S. Corallo, N. Coliella, M. Federico, A. Giordano, V. Malarbi, P. Capasso, T. DiBenedetto, O. Siantis, V. Riali, D. Minnala, J. Xerri, J. Topouzis, A. Malignacci, M. Zappone, C. Dell'olio, P. Schipano, P. De Santis, A. Corbino, J. Ferraro. Coach: N. Ascenzo; team manager: A. Minnala.



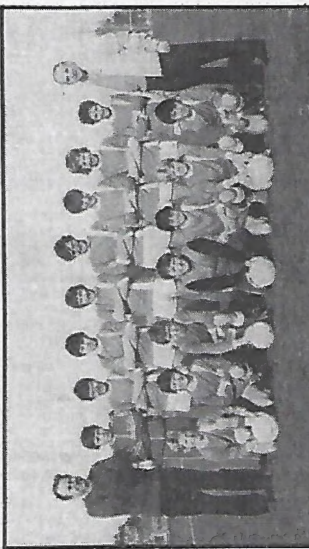
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● Under 15's, sponsored by Nick's Riteaway Supermarket: Robert Ferla, Mark Gasbarro, Joe Corallo, Michael Grech, Anthony Boato, Tony Marasco, Michael Barba, Dominic Cannizzaro, Angelo Marino, Serge Tiscoco, Peter Costanzo, Mario Villani, (missing), Rocky Bruno, John D'Amore, Mark Alessandro, mascot Daniel Rizzo. Coach: Charles Rizzo; team manager: Tony Ferla.



● Under 11's, sponsored by Fast Painting Service and G. Oliva Builders: Orlando Petrocchi, Sebastian Oliva, Chris Dickson, Giuseppe Falvio, Robert Nicolo, Damiano Ambrosini, Gaetano Galati, Massimo Pompilio, Mark Sorrentino, Robert Alessi, David Recchia, Tony Giuliano, Emilio Vecchiare, Anthony Gentile, Peter Salera, Frank Corso, Robert Gillott, Bert Raffaele, Giuseppe Raucci. Coach: Achille Ursini; team manager: John Alessi.



● Under 13's: P. Troiano, D. Scamarcio, S. Batchelor, S. Marinucci, N. Risteviski, S. Emanuele, J. Vesnaver, B. Zoran, P. Doggett, R. Dematteo, F. Giordano, S. Lucente, M. Pompilio, G. Kovos, F. Bellotti. Coach: S. Lucente; team manager: A. Vesnaver.



● Under 16's, sponsored by Nanda Pasta: Paul Gbac, Florindo Angelo, Walter Pelaccia, Sammy Pirucchio, John Caniglia, Anthony Gbac, Andy Placcia, Mario Orlando, Peter Bordignon, Roy Cleverly, Tony Varalla, Paul D'Angelo, Nick Scutti, Ritchy Rizza. Coach: Les Gooney; team manager: Joseph Gbac.

Continua la disorganizzazione del calcio australiano

Alcune delle nubi che si erano addensate sulla Lega Nazionale, e quindi sull'intero calcio australiano, sembra si stiano diradando dopo una speciale riunione tenutasi lo scorso weekend fra il Consiglio della Lega e l'esecutivo della Federcalcio Australiana.

Il pomo della discordia è stato fino ad ora un pagamento di \$240.000 come sponsorship alla Lega Nazionale da parte della ditta che sponsorizza l'intero calcio australiano a livello di Federazione. Secondo il Consiglio della Lega questa somma era stata assicurata (sembra però che l'assicurazione sia stata soltanto verbale, anche se ripetuta diverse volte), mentre secondo la compagnia che rappresenta gli interessi della West Nally (la ditta sponsorizzatrice) in Australia, non c'era stata alcuna assicurazione.

Fino ad ora la vertenza sembra non avesse alcuna possibilità di soluzione favorevole alla Lega anche perché il presidente della Federcalcio Australiana, Sir Arthur George, si era schierato dalla parte della West Nally nel fare lo gnorri alle richieste di soldi da parte della Lega.

Invece dopo quest'ultima schiarita di idee dello scorso weekend, il buon Sir Arthur è passato dalla parte della Lega e si è impegnato a intercedere personalmente con il direttore generale della West Nally, Patrick Nally, che egli incontrerà nelle prossime settimane in America, acciocché i soldi siano versati.

Con tutti i difetti che Sir Arthur George possa avere, ha certo il merito di essere molto convincente quando parla di alta finanza con i grossi uomini d'affari del calibro di Patrick Nally. Perciò si può essere ragionevolmente certi che questi benedetti soldi prima o poi arriveranno, anche se la cifra sarà ridotta.

La presa di posizione di Sir Arthur va molto al di là del semplice vantaggio finanziario che ne potrebbe derivare alla Lega, poiché essa ha evitato

la possibilità di una ennesima rivoluzione nel calcio australiano, stando alle minacce della Lega che era intenzionata a non permettere ai suoi giocatori di giocare con la nazionale australiana senza un previo compenso in denaro alla Lega e quindi ai club di appartenenza dei giocatori.

Quanto questa minaccia della Lega avrebbe potuto essere efficace e che contromisure punitive avrebbe preso la Federcalcio, nessuno può dirlo. Ma è ovvio che la guerra fra le due organizzazioni (con la West Nally nel mezzo) non sarebbe stata certo molto salutare per il futuro del calcio australiano. Così, per ora la guerra è stata scongiurata.

In questo clima di armistizio è stato possibile discutere vari piani per il futuro della Lega Nazionale. Come al solito ci sono cambiamenti in vista per il prossimo anno. Sembra che la competizione nazionale continuerà con due gironi anche l'anno prossimo, ma le due squadre di Brisbane saranno annunciate al girone australiano (che finalmente così si potrà chiamare "Nord") con il risultato che tale girone avrà 14 squadre, mentre il girone nazionale (che senza le squadre nordiche di Brisbane potrà chiamarsi "Sud") rimarrà con solo dieci squadre.

Cio' significa che saranno aboliti anche i "challenge rounds" e quindi il campionato sarà molto più breve di quest'anno, specialmente per il girone "Sud" che dalle 28 partite di quest'anno scenderà a solo 18 giornate.

Comunque queste sono soltanto le prime avvisaglie di riorganizzazione, o più propriamente di

organizzazione. Ormai cominciamo a disperare che questi benedetti amministratori del calcio australiano siano capaci di avere lo stesso tipo di competizione per due anni consecutivi.

Il presente sistema non è certo perfetto, ma ha tanti ottimi punti considerando le difficoltà e il costo di condurre una competizione nazionale in una nazione che in effetti è un continente. I due gironi come sono ora erano riusciti a limitare il numero di lunghe trasferte interstatali ma allo stesso tempo aveva mantenuto il carattere nazionale della competizione incrociando quasi tutte le squadre dei due gironi con i "challenge rounds". Ed è innegabile che le squadre con un discreto seguito etnico riuscivano a portare pubblico anche in trasferta alle padrone di casa dal seguito anemico.

Il Croatia e la Juventus di Melbourne, per esempio, significavano buoni incassi per le squadre di Brisbane ed Adelaide facendo presa sul pubblico italiano e croato di quelle città.

Ripiegando per il nuovo formato di 14 squadre per il girone Nord e di 10 squadre per il girone Sud non si fa altro che tornare quasi al sistema delle Leghe Statali di una volta con l'aggiunta di due "cugine di campagna" che entreranno a far parte dei due campionati statali del N.S.W. e del Victoria.

Sarebbe proprio il caso di chiedere agli amministratori del calcio australiano "A che gioco giochiamo?" e dove si arriverà con questi cambiamenti annuali che sembrano essere sempre per il peggio e che finiranno per stupire tutti.

Se il sistema di una competizione nazionale è ormai inaccettabile per tutta una serie di motivi, si abbia almeno il coraggio di ammetterlo una volta per tutte e si ritorni al vecchio sistema dei campionati statali (senza dimenticare però che la Lega Nazionale nacque appunto perché i campionati statali stavano morendo).

Se invece la Lega Nazionale non riesce a funzionare come potrebbe a causa delle continue beghe fra le varie federazioni statali, la federazione nazionale e la Lega nazionale, sarebbe ora che i capocannoni riescano a capire che è arrivato il momento di mettersi d'accordo altrimenti ci rimarrà ben poco di cui essere capocannoni.

Sarebbe anche utile che i regolamenti delle varie federazioni statali e di quella nazionale venissero unificati al più presto possibile per evitare le eterne confusioni che sorgono in continuazione.

E per finire, almeno per quest'anno, sarebbe utile fare qualcosa per migliorare il livello dell'arbitraggio ed il livello dirigenziale con corsi di aggiornamento.

Ancora oggi troviamo arbitri che sono impreparati o addirittura incapaci di poter essere preparati perché privi delle qualità basilari per diventare buoni giudici di gara, e dirigenti a livello di club che non hanno la minima idea di cosa ci possa volere per amministrare una squadra di calcio. Stiamo ancora andando avanti alla cieca, affidandoci alla "furbizia" di certi dirigenti, all'incoscienza finanziaria di altri che buttano nel calcio cifre favolose ed i mig-

lianti e tre punti di svantaggio dai cugini dell'APIA non sono tanto facili da annullare. Ma siamo sicuri che i Marconi siano uno dei grandi protagonisti del girone finale e che il prossimo anno sarà la squadra da battere se riuscirà a mantenere la sua rosa di giocatori intatta.

L'APIA anche ha colto un buon risultato a Canberra con il classico 2-0 e rimane al secondo posto in classifica.

L'Adelaide City ha deluso con il pareggio casalingo contro il finalino di coda del George Cross e il suo futuro sembra farsi più scuro poiché questa era l'ultima partita in cui utilizzava i due giocatori italiani Scarpa e Talliero. Con George Cross e Green Gully che stanno dimostrando una certa ripresa, i bianconeri si ripresentano a trovarsi in fondo alla classifica nel giro di alcune settimane.

Il Brisbane City ha perso di stretta misura contro il Croatia di Melbourne sul terreno di casa. La sconfitta non è inaspettata perché la squadra croata è una formazione di gran classe che ha tutte le carte in regola per aspirare alla vittoria del girone; oltretutto il Croatia ha recentemente "pescato" un fuoriclasse fra i suoi giovanissimi in Markovic e può ancora permettersi il lusso di avere in panchina i nazionali Peter Lewis e Jimmy Campbell.

Non va dimenticato poi che il Brisbane City quest'anno ha vinto una sola partita sul terreno di casa e non era certo il Croatia la squadra che le avrebbe permesso di cogliere la seconda affermazione casalinga. Sembra strano che il terreno di casa sia sfavorevole ad una squadra, forse la tifoseria locale dovrebbe cominciare a farsi delle domande sul modo come si comporta nei riguardi della squadra del cuore.

E veniamo a Melbourne dove la Juventus ha colto un pareggio contro il Newcastle Rosebud. Un risultato non eccezionale sulla carta, ma molto più meritorio di quanto possa sembrare.

Il Newcastle, rinforzatosi recentemente, non è la squadra che la sua posizione in classifica potrebbe far pensare. La Juventus d'altro canto ha avuto tutti i problemi possibili ed immaginabili ed il punto conquistato va a tutto onore della formazione bianconera che è riuscita a rimontare la rete di svantaggio.

Nella Juventus esordiva il nuovo acquisto Brian Brown nella posizione di libero. Lo sciezese mancava ovviamente di condizione fisica ed era arrivato solo qualche giorno prima della partita ed il suo contributo è stato decisivo ai fini del risultato, ma non eccezionale perché il suo innesco ha causato una completa rivoluzione della squadra. Sia Dowie che Rogers, i due pilastri della difesa fine alla settimana scorsa, sono stati spostati a centrocampo e Cullen è stato spostato nuovamente in attacco, almeno nelle intenzioni perché erano mesi che giocava a centrocampo e non è riuscito a tornare la sua posizione giusta.

Inoltre il rimaneggiamento ha costretto l'allenatore a lasciare in panchina Lloyd che, con la sterilità dell'attacco e la confusione a centrocampo, sarebbe stato invece un uomo molto prezioso e lo si è visto quando è entrato nel secondo tempo dopo che Geremia aveva dovuto rinunciare a causa di crampi allo stomaco.

Peccato che la Juventus sia riuscita ad assicurarsi un buon giocatore proprio nell'unica posizione in cui aveva meno bisogno: con il rientro di Drinocky a centromediano (anche se il ragazzo deve ancora riacquistare la sua forma migliore) e con Rogers e Dowie come scelte per la posizione di libero, il centro della difesa era l'unico reparto

veramente capace. Rinforzi ci servivano, e ci servono ancora, in tutti gli altri reparti.

Comunque Brown era l'unico giocatore che la Juventus è riuscita ad accaparrarsi e, se mantiene le promesse, sarà un pilastro della squadra per molte tempo ancora poiché sembra che sia venuto in Australia non per le 12 partite fino alla fine del campionato ma per un totale di tre anni.

Ora che le possibilità di acquistare nuovi giocatori sono finite, Margatits dovrà riordinare la sua squadra con quelle che ha. L'avvento di Dowie a centrocampo è indubbiamente un miglioramento, ma anche Rogers diventa un pochetto troppo, specialmente in vista del prossimo rientro di Miranda (ancora un paio di settimane se tutto va bene). Peter Rogers è indubbiamente il giocatore di maggior verve e di più complete impegno che la Juventus abbia avuto quest'anno, oltre ad essere il capitano della squadra, e non lo si può certo mettere a riposo.

Potrebbe sembrare un suggerimento strano, ma noi pensiamo che, visto che non serve più in difesa, la posizione migliore per Rogers sarebbe l'attacco. Tante e ormai chiaro e tondo che la Juventus di attacco non ne ha molto e Rogers, essendo il grande e generoso giocatore che è, potrebbe rivelarsi il miglior attaccante della Juventus odierna!

LEGHE STATALI

Ottima giornata per le italiane nella Lega Statale del Victoria.

Il fawnier ha surclassato il Knox City con il secco punteggio di 5-1 ed ha riacquisito il primato in classifica a spese del Polonia che ha perso di

stretta misura con il Western Suburbs; allo stesso tempo il Morwell ha pareggiato con un'altra delle aspiranti al titolo, il Box Hill, e si è piazzato al secondo posto, un punto dietro al Fawnier ed un punto davanti al Polonia.

Nella Lega Statale del N.S.W. il Monaro ha battuto Warrington ed è sempre in seconda posizione ad una sola lunghezza dalla capolista Rockdale.

LEGHE MINORI

Ma forse le più belle notizie per la tifoseria italiana del Victoria vanno ricercate nelle divisioni minori. Nella prima divisione il Thomastown ha impattato con la compagna della prima poltrona in classifica, Springvale City, e continua perciò ad essere una seria candidata non solo per la promozione alla Lega Statale ma addirittura per il campionato della prima divisione.

Nella terza divisione la Triestina è tornata alla vittoria addirittura sul campo della seconda in classifica, il Karingal United e si sta riavvicinando così alle posizioni alte della classifica, anche se ormai la vittoria di campionato è ormai quasi fuori da ogni possibile promozione (ben cinque punti la separano dalla capolista, ma solo un punto dalla quarta, due dalla terza e tre dalla seconda).

Nella quarta divisione l'East Brunswick Abruzzo ha battuto il Greensborough ed è ora terzo in classifica a cinque punti dalla capolista.

Sfortunatamente il Regent ha perso con il Pascoe Vale. Ma il risultato migliore è quello del Dallas City che ha battuto il Lyndale United per 3-0 ed è salutato finalmente al comando della classifica della terza divisione della Lega Provisionale.

VIVA ITALIA!

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Passando al calcio giocato sui campi, il turno dello scorso weekend è stato abbastanza interessante per le squadre italiane ed ha prodotto alcuni buoni risultati nei vari campionati.

LEGA NAZIONALE

Il risultato più brillante nella massima divisione lo ha conseguito il Marconi che si è preso il lusso di strappare il St. George con il risultato di 4-1; naturalmente gli ungheresi non sono più le squadre che l'anno scorso conquistarono il titolo nazionale, ma sono pur sempre i campioni in carica e non avevano subito da tanto tempo sconfitte così pesanti.

La giovane formazione di Scheinflug, in cui il rientro del terzino Kizotto, ha riportato maggiore sicurezza in difesa e maggiore spinta offensiva, sta diventando una squadra con la quale sarà difficile fare i conti per chiunque.

La posizione in classifica del Marconi non è tale da dargli grandi possibilità di vittoria del girone a causa dei mediocri risultati ottenuti all'inizio dell'anno quando i suoi giovani giocatori cercavano ancora l'intesa; sette punti da rimontare al "mostro" del Sydney City sono tanti ed

Team of the week

In brackets number of appearances in team of the week.

FRANKEN (2) (Canberra)	BERTOGNA (3) (APIA)	DOKOS (1) (Syd Olympic)
McDOWELL (2) (Foots JUST)	WADE (5) (Green Gully)	PETERSEN (3) (Heidelberg)
ANTOLVICH (1) (Melb Croatia)	GAFFNEY (1) (Wollongong)	PATIKAS (3) (Syd Olympic)
JANKOVICS (3) (Marconi)	MARKOVAC (1) (Melb Croatia)	



Oscar Crino of South Melbourne Hellas

Makedona to beat Adelaide Juventus

From Page 4

Preston Makedonia's new coach Frank McAleer has strengthened his midfield by using George McMillan there, along with Robbie Dunn, and the new approach came close to bearing fruit against Heidelberg-Alxander. Had Claude Lucchesi's goal not been disallowed, Makedonia would have drawn that match, so it should win both points in an easier match, against Adelaide City Juventus at Connor Reserve.

South Melbourne Hellas will have Oscar Crino back after suspension against Newcastle-Rosebud at Middle Park, meaning John Zendeorn will return to the sweeper's position, Kris Kalitidis moves to left back, and Angie Postecoglou goes to the bench, after having played so well as a replacement defender.

Footscray J.U.S.T., without suspended striker Dragan Lacmanovic, will find the going tough against West Adelaide Hellas in Adelaide, but should score a narrow victory nevertheless. Tony Caban is likely to take Lacmanovic's place in attack, and Jamie Paton also is fighting his way back after injury.

Wollongong, inspired by Larry Gaffney in midfield, is unlikely to build on its victory over Brisbane Lions, as it appears to be doomed to defeat when it meets Penrith at the Wollongong Showgrounds.

Sydney Croatia has to beat Brisbane Lions at home if it hopes to avoid relegation, and disappointing St George Budapest will be lucky to get a draw with Melita Eagles, unless it regains Terry Greedy, Mark Barton and Dez Marton.



TOP SOCCER THIS SUNDAY JULY 22



NATIONAL CONFERENCE



Joe Angele
Heidelberg

Brisbane City v Heidelberg

Spencer Park 3pm

Previous NSL results
Brisbane City 2 wins
Heidelberg 7 wins
5 draws

Sunshine George Cross v Melbourne Croatia

Chaplin Reserve 3pm

Previous NSL results
Melbourne Croatia 1 win



Steve Gojevic
Croatia



Paul Wade
Green Gully

Juventus v Green Gully

Olympic Park No. 2

Previous NSL results
Juventus 1 win

Preston v Adelaide City

Connor Reserve 3pm

Previous NSL results
Preston 4 wins
Adelaide City 1 win 2 draws



Nello Scarpa
Adelaide City



Ralph Maier
Newcastle

South Melbourne v Newcastle

Middle Park 3pm

Previous NSL results
South 4 wins
Newcastle 4 wins
4 draws

West Adelaide v Footscray

Hindmarsh Stadium 2.30pm

Previous NSL results
West Adelaide 7 wins
Footscray 3 wins
3 draws



Theo
Stametelopoulos
West Adelaide

AUSTRALIAN CONFERENCE



Phil O'Connor
Blacktown

Blacktown City v Leichhardt

Gabbie Stadium 3pm

Previous NSL results
Leichhardt 3 wins
2 draws

Canberra Arrows v Marconi

Bruce Stadium 3pm

Previous NSL results
Canberra 4 wins
Marconi 4 wins
6 draws



ANDREW BROCKBANK
Canberra



David Ratcliffe
St George

St George v Melita Eagles

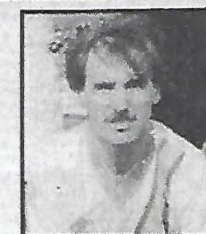
St George Stadium 3pm

Previous NSL results
Melita Eagles 1 win

Sydney City v Sydney Olympic

Sydney Athletic Field 3pm

Previous NSL results
Sydney City 9 wins
Sydney Olympic 2 wins
2 draws



WILLIE MURRAY
Sydney City



Russell Stewart
Brisbane Lions

Sydney Croatia v Brisbane Lions

King Tomislav Park 3pm

Previous NSL results
1 draw

Wollongong City v Penrith City

Wollongong Showgrounds 3pm

Previous NSL results
Penrith 1 win



Natch Vardareff
Wollongong